# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-87-251* *31 December 1987*

CONTENTS

**MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW**

31 December Middle East and South Asia Review ..... 1

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Islamic Affairs**

ICO Communique Reaffirms Stand on Afghanistan *[SPA]* ..... 2

**Palestinian Affairs**

'Arafat Urges U.S., FRG To End Aid to Israel *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... 2
Khalil al-Wazir Meets With Soviet, PRC Envoys *[Algiers VOP]* ..... 2
PLO Responds to Rabin's Call To End Terrorism *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* ..... 2
PLO Accepts Libyan Invitation to Conference *[Algiers VOP]* ..... 3
Government-in-Exile, Ties with Syria Viewed *[MENA]* ..... 3

**ARAB AFRICA**

**Algeria**

Political Bureau Member Returns From Greece ..... 4
Bendjedid Congratulates Tunisia, Libya ..... 4

**Chad**

Sudan's 'Lack of Sincerity' Condemned ..... 4
Ministers Take Habre Messages to 8 Countries ..... 5

**Egypt**

AL-SAFIR Reports Meetings With Iranians *[30 Dec]* ..... 5
'Official Source' Denies Report ..... 6
Mubarak Receives Southern Sudanese Official ..... 6
'Abd al-Majid on Plans To Deport Palestinians ..... 6
Al-Baz on Defense Pact, Israel's Options ..... 6
U.S. Closure of PLO Office Denounced ..... 7
USSR Trade Official Makes Statement, Departs ..... 7

**Libya**

Arab Summit To Discuss Palestinians Urged ..... 8

**Sudan**

Egypt's Ghali Makes Statement on Arrival ..... 8
Arab Aid Allegedly Helped Regain Kurmuk *[Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... 8
Commentary Rejects Claim of Foreign Support *[Radio SPLA]* ..... 8

**Western Sahara**

Communique Reports Attack, Territory Captured *[Algiers]* ..... 9

## ARABIAN PENINSULA

### Kuwait

Austrian Interior Minister Pays Official Visit ..... 10
Talks Focus on Terrorism *[Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG 30 Dec]* ..... 10
Interviewed by AL-QABAS *[29 Dec]* ..... 10
Concludes Visit, Departs ..... 11
Prime Minister Receives Palestinian Delegation ..... 11

### Oman

Decree Appoints New Justice, State Ministers ..... 11

### PDRY

Death Sentences Reportedly Carried Out in Aden *[AFP]* ..... 11
Former President Comments on Death Sentences *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Dec]* ..... 12
YSP Central Committee Discusses Economic Plan ..... 12

### Saudi Arabia

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives on 'Brief Visit' ..... 13
Egyptian Ambassador Arrives in Jeddah ..... 13
Deputy Minister on Relations With USSR ..... 13

### Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Receives Soviet Envoy, Gorbachev Message ..... 13
Radio Carries Salih RENMIN RIBAO Interview ..... 13

## IRAQ

Tariq 'Aziz Meets PLO's 'Arafat in Baghdad ..... 15
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations ..... 15
Communique No 2,969 ..... 15
Sinking of 2 Boats Denied ..... 15

## ISRAEL

Turkish Envoy Vows Serious Approach on Bombs *[THE JERUSALEM POST 31 Dec]* ..... 16
Turkish 'Terrorist' Involved in Gaza Unrest *[MA'ARIV 31 Dec]* ..... 16
Soviet Consular Team To Leave 'Within Weeks' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 29 Dec]* ..... 16
Increase in Tourism 'Change' in Soviet Policy *[MA'ARIV 29 Dec]* ..... 17
Disturbances Resume in Territories, Other Areas ..... 17
W. Bank, Gaza Incidents ..... 17
E. Jerusalem Bus Stoned ..... 17
Bus Stoned Near Abu Ghaush ..... 17
Police Prepared for Fatah Day; 10 More Arrests ..... 18
Arab Youth Killed Crossing Border to Jordan ..... 18
Minister Says Deportations 'To Continue' ..... 18
Inner Cabinet Views Territories, Arab Sector *[MA'ARIV 31 Dec]* ..... 18
Peres Discusses Deportation, Peace, Gaza Plan ..... 18
Purpose of Deportation Policy Questioned *[THE JERUSALEM POST 31 Dec]* ..... 21
Poll Compares Israeli Arab, Palestinian Views *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Dec]* ..... 21

## JORDAN

Prince Hasan Returns From Visit to Turkey ..... 23
Further Reportage *[cross-reference]* ..... 23
Al-Rifa'i Receives Lebanon's Walid Junblatt *[AL-DUSTUR 29 Dec]* ..... 23

Jerusalem Electric Company Franchise Extended *[AL-RA'Y 28 Dec]* ..... 23
Stipends Set for Families of Uprising 'Martyrs' ..... 23
Paper Criticizes Arab 'Neutrality' on Gulf War *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 28 Dec]* ..... 23
Syrian Stand on War 'Compatible' With Summit *[AL-RA'Y 30 Dec]* ..... 24

## LEBANON

Further Reports on Helicopter Hijacking ..... 25
Army Command Issues Statement *[RFL]* ..... 25
More on Defection *[VOL]* ..... 25
Hamadah Praises Landing ..... 25
Prompts Fears of PSP Campaign *[RFL]* ..... 25
Israel Urges Helicopter's Return *[VOL]* ..... 26
Eastern Areas' Airspace Closed *[RFL]* ..... 26
Fatah Contacts Official on Release of 2 Girls *[VOM]* ..... 26
Further on Contacts *[Paris]* ..... 26
'Bargain' To Release FRG Hostage Reported *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... 26
IRA Seeks Release of Beirut Kidnap Victim *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION 31 Dec]* ..... 26
Birri Says 'Reception' of Deportees Rejected ..... 27
Israelis, SLA Adopt 'Special' Military Measures *[VOL]* ..... 27
1 Killed, 3 wounded in Amal-Israeli Clash *[VOL]* ..... 27
Resistance Attacks Israeli, Lahd Forces ..... 27
Al-Jumayyil Cited on New Government, Support ..... 27
Al-Jumayyil Receives Message From CSSR Leader *[VOL]* ..... 28
Al-Huss, Iranian Envoy on Palestinians *[IRNA]* ..... 28
Soviet Envoy Meets Al-Huss, Makes Statement *[VOM]* ..... 28
Invitation to Arab League Meeting Received *[VOL]* ..... 28
9 February Organization Claims Attacks *[RFL]* ..... 28
Fadlallah Raises Issue of Islamic State *[VOL]* ..... 28
Official Responds to Call *[VOL]* ..... 29
AL-RA'Y on Hizballah's 'New Military Command' *[27 Dec]* ..... 29
'Islamic Movement' Nominates Fadlallah *[AL-SAFIR 30 Dec]* ..... 29
Embassy in Sudan Closes To Save Expenses *[VOL]* ..... 29

## SYRIA

Khaddam Sends Message to Palestinian Leaders *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 29 Dec]* ..... 30
Soviet Envoy Delivers Note on Superpower Summit ..... 30
Bulgarian Trade Minister Pays Official Visit ..... 30
Arrives 25 Dec ..... 30
Calls on Oil Minister ..... 30
Holds Cooperation Talks ..... 30
Confers With Al-Zu'bi ..... 31
Signs Agreements, Departs ..... 31
Al-Zu'bi Meets Bulgarian Education Minister ..... 31

## SOUTH ASIA

### Afghanistan

First Convoy Arrives in Khowst from Gardeyz ..... 32
Mujahidin Claim Control of Khowst-Gardeyz Road ..... 32
BAKHTAR Issues Warning on Risks to Foreigners ..... 32
Italian Charge Asks To See Arrested Journalist *[Rome]* ..... 33
General Interviewed on Aid by Soviet Troops ..... 33
BAKHTAR Observer Praises Soviet Assistance ..... 33
Armed Group Accepts Reconciliation Policy ..... 34
Briefs ..... 34
USSR Petroleum Contract ..... 34
USSR Dam Construction ..... 34
Kirghiz SSR Aid Protocol ..... 34

**Bangladesh**

Ershad To Visit Iraq in Early January ..... 34
No Curfew From 31 Dec Midnight to 1 Jan Morning ..... 34
Ministers Speak Against Terrorism, Violence ..... 34
Opposition Again Demands Government Resign ..... 35
Political Parties Support Elections ..... 35

**India**

40 GNLF Activists Arrested in 30 Dec Raid ..... 35
'Terrorists' Gun Down 4 in Punjab 30 Dec ..... 36
Government Says 'No Compromise With Violence' ..... 36
Editorial Sees Pro-Pakistan Moves in Congress *[INDIAN EXPRESS 16 Dec]* ..... 36
Exports Reach Record High in Fiscal Year ..... 36

**Iran**

Coastal Artillery Fire Sinks 2 Iraqi Ships ..... 37
FRG Container Ship Detained in Bandar-e 'Abbas *[AFP]* ..... 37
NBC Interview With Hashemi-Rafsanjani ..... 37
Tehran Assails GCC Leaders on Palestine Issue ..... 38
Velayati Cables Cuban Counterpart ..... 39
Velayati Congratulates Sudan on Anniversary ..... 39
Commentary Says No Negotiations With Iraq ..... 39
Air Force Commander Briefs Khamene'i ..... 39
Rafiqdust Explains Phased Deployment Plans ..... 39
Tehran on Phased Dispatch of 120,000 Volunteers ..... 40
IRGC Spokesman Interviewed on War Tactics ..... 40
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue ..... 41
Communique No 3066 ..... 41
Enemy Unit Neutralized in Sanbapa ..... 41
Iraq Reportedly Relocating Turkic Population ..... 41

**Pakistan**

Karachi Police Fire Tear Gas at 'Violent Mob' ..... 42
Kashmir Minister Reportedly Declares Emergency *[Delhi JANSATTA 15 Dec]* ..... 42

**Sri Lanka**

Indian Gunships Sink 5 Tamil Rebel Boats ..... 42
LTTE Fires on Aircraft; Slight Damage Noted ..... 42
9 Killed at Batticaloa 29, 30 Dec *[Delhi]* ..... 43
6 More Killed 31 Dec *[AFP]* ..... 43

## 31 December Middle East and South Asia Review

LD311402 [Editorial Report]

### Lebanon

A Gazelle helicopter was hijacked to the Al-Shuf area by Army Lieutenant Majid Karami, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio announced. A Lebanese Army statement carried by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon acknowledged the incident. According to an AL-BAYRAQ report cited by the radio, the military has been placed on alert against any moves involving the helicopter and PSP forces. The IDF is also in a "state of high alert" to defend Israeli airspace, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

### Israel

An Arab youth cutting a border fence to enter Jordan was shot dead after he failed to heed an IDF warning, Jerusalem radio reported 31 December.

### Inter-Arab Affairs

**Arab League Meeting Called**—The Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau issued a call for an emergency Arab League foreign ministers meeting "as soon as possible" to adopt a "unified and decisive stand" on the Palestinian situation, Tripoli television announced. Among the measures suggested for consideration was a joint refusal to accept any Palestinians expelled by Israel, thereby thwarting any such plans which could lead to the "destitution" of the people in the occupied territories. In remarks cited by Beirut radio, Nabih Birri, Lebanese minister for the south and reconstruction, disclosed that the "nationalist and Palestinian forces" have agreed on "rejecting reception" of any deportees.

**PLO-Syria Contacts**—The PLO recently received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, PLO official 'Imad Shaqqur revealed to MENA. Shaqqur, who viewed the message as a "positive sign," added that it was conveyed by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam though an intermediary.

### Afghanistan

**Convoy to Khowst**—"Thousands" of Khowst residents celebrated the arrival of an 155-vehicle convoy carrying 1,200 tons of supplies, Kabul radio reported. According to Moscow radio, 1,600 "counterrevolutionaries" were killed or wounded and large quantities of weaponry and supplies were seized during the military offensive to open the Gardeyz-Khowst highway. Now that the operation has ended "successfully," the region has entered a "new peaceful stage," the radio declared.

**Friendship Treaty**—President Najibullah and his host, Cambodian State Council Chairman Heng Samrin, signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation, Phnom Penh radio reported, adding that a protocol on cooperation between the two countries' Foreign Ministries in 1988 was also signed.

### Iran

Regarding press reports that Iran is manufacturing chemical weapons, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi told Tehran radio that although his country has the "capability" to produce such weapons, it will not do so as long as "Islam does not permit it" and Iran is not "forced to manufacture them."

### Saudi Arabia

A royal decree carried by SPA authorized the Finance Ministry to borrow a sum not to exceed 30 billion riyals in order to make up for revenue shortfalls in the 1987-88 fiscal year. In remarks carried by the agency, King Fahd announced that funds raised though the sale of government bonds will be used to "increase development expenditures." The Saudi monarch reviewed the government's efforts to continue national development while coping with a decline in oil income, and he cautioned citizens against taking unfair advantage of the state's efforts to reduce imports and increase local industry.

### PDRY

Death sentences were carried out 29 December against five men found guilty of involvement in the 13 January uprising, according to an AL-ITTIHAD report cited by WAKH.

### Oman

Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id promoted Hilal ibn Hamad Al Bu Sa'id to the post of adviser for Islamic affairs and appointed Hilil ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib Al Bu Sa'id minister of justice, awqaf, and Islamic affairs, according to a decree broadcast by Muscat radio.

## Islamic Affairs

### ICO Communique Reaffirms Stand on Afghanistan

*LD300044 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2250 GMT 29 Dec 87*

[Text] Jeddah, 29 Dec (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization has reaffirmed its position on the Afghan problem, stressing the need for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan; for maintaining Afghanistan's independence and the return of its nonaligned and Islamic character; for the right of its people to choose their social, economic, and political regime without any foreign intervention, coercion or ties; and for the right of Afghan refugees to return home.

The organization stressed that these principles were affirmed at the fifth Islamic summit conference held in Kuwait in January 1987.

It pointed out that the UN and the NonalignedMovement had adopted a similar position.

In a communique published today on the eighth anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the organization supported indirect talks under the UN aegis to attain a comprehensive settlement to the problem.

The organization salutes the Afghan people for resisting the Soviet occupation and reiterates its full support for the struggle of the Afghan people and for the reinstatement of its national rights.

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat Urges U.S., FRG To End Aid to Israel

*JN291730 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Dec 87*

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has urged the United States and the FRG to suspend their economic and military aid to the Zionist entity.

In a statement to the press carried by KUNA, he said the FRG in particular should suspend such aid to Israel because it has a special responsibility toward the Palestinian people and their tragedy.

Abu 'Ammar also criticized the U.S. stand that is hostile to the Palestinian people, pointing out that Washington and Tel Aviv recently signed an agreement on military cooperation under which the United States granted Israel status similar to that of a NATO member state at a time when the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are struggling to regain their legitimate rights and resist Zionist occupation and repression.

He also stressed that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories will continue to erupt from time to time until the Palestinians achieve their goal of establishing their own independent state throughout Palestine.

### Khalil al-Wazir Meets With Soviet, PRC Envoys

*LD271344 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Dec 87*

[Text] In Tripoli, the capital of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolutionary Forces and member of the Fatah Central Committee, met with the ambassadors of the Soviet Union and the PRC accredited to the Libyan Jamahiriyah individually.

He briefed them on developments in the popular revolution in the occupied territories, its repercussions on all levels, and its international dimensions and on the international solidarity with and support for our people's struggle, led by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of Palestinians.

He also reviewed developments in the political situation in the region and the PLO's political moves. The meeting was attended by Brother :Izzat Abu al-Rabb, PLO representative in the Jamahiriyah.

### PLO Responds to Rabin's Call To End Terrorism

*JN301934 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Statement by an "official Palestinian spokesman"—date, place not given]

[Text] Israeli war minister Yitzhaq Rabin is calling on the PLO to declare an end to terrorism in return for the occupation authorities' release of Palestinian detainees.

By this he is trying to conceal what is happening in the occupied homeland because:

1. The entire world is aware that the crux of the problem is the continuation of the Israeli occupation and the denial of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. Unless the occupation ends and the Palestinian people's national rights are guaranteed, there will be no peace in the occupied Palestinian homeland or in the region. Those who seek peace should be aware of this reality and behave accordingly.

2. What is being done by the PLO and the Palestinian people is a legitimate, free national struggle recognized by the UN Charter and human rights; terrorism is the Israeli occupation authorities' actions against the Palestinian people; and it is the Israeli occupation authorities that should be reequired to end terrorism and the iron fist policy against the Palestinian people. They should also release all the detainees in detention camps and prisons.

3. We have been peace advocates and there has been much bloodshed over the past decades as a result of the repression of our people and the denial of their national rights. We reiterate our call for a just peace that can be achieved only by ending the occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to regain their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil.

## PLO Accepts Libyan Invitation to Conference

*LD301753 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee is continuing its open session of meetings dedicated to following up events and developments in the occupied territories.

During the evening session, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] reviewed the actions and contacts carried out by the Palestinian leadership on all Arab and international levels to confront the grave measures carried out by the Zionist occupation government against the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories.

The Executive Committee also discussed the escalating events inside the occupied territories and the necessary means to consolidate the heroic steadfastness of the Palestinian masses against the Zionist oppressive and terrorist policy and discussed Arab and international efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 605.

The Executive Committee adopted a number of urgent measures to contribute to lifting the military, supply, and medical siege imposed on the occupied Palestinian camps, towns, and villages, including the large-scale arrest campaigns launched by the occupation forces.

The Executive Committee also reviewed the results of the visit paid by Brother Abu Jihad, [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief, to the Libyan Jamahiriyah and his meeting with President [title as heard] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and decided to agree to the Jamahiriyah's call for holding an extraordinary meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the new events and developments inside the occupied homeland and to consolidate the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

## Government-in-Exile, Ties with Syria Viewed

*NC301358 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—'Imad Shaqqur, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for Israeli affairs, has affirmed that the idea of establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile, which is under discussion at the PLO Executive Committee's meetings in Tunis in consultation with all friendly and allied states, foremost among which are Egypt and the Arab countries, would not annul the PLO role and leadership.

A government-in-exile would stem from the PLO itself, he said, noting that a Palestinian government would further consolidate the Palestinian national and legal identity.

On Syrian-Palestinian relations, the Palestinian official said in his exclusive statement to MENA that messages are being exchanged between the PLO and Syria via intermediaries.

He pointed out that the PLO received a message from the Syrian president 2 weeks ago. The message was conveyed by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam through one of the intermediaries. However, it contained more questions than answers.

Shaqqur said that, nevertheless, the message is a positive sign, affirming the continuity of the dialogue between the two parties. The PLO, he added, wants to have good relations with Syria.

Asked about the dialogue with certain Israeli parties, Shaqqur said that all such dialogue had taken place in accordance with clear decisions by the PNC that the other side should recognize three points: the presence of the Palestinian people, the national rights of the Palestinian people, and the presence of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

He said: We are waging a struggle against Israel on various levels and when this struggle takes place in the Israeli arena it will represent a gain for the Palestinian cause.

## Algeria

### Political Bureau Member Returns From Greece

*LD301953 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, returned to Algiers this afternoon after a 2-day friendly working visit to Greece.

During this visit, Mr Messaadia met with Andreas Papandreou, head of the Greek socialist movement PASOK [Panhellenic Socialist Movement] and Greek prime minister. He also held talks with a number of Greek officials.

Mr Messaadia's talks in Athens covered various aspects of cooperation between Algeria and Greece, in addition to issues of common interest, especially issues concerning decolonization, security, and disarmament in the world.

Mohamed Cherif Messaadia's visit was crowned by the issuing of a press communique in which the Greek side presented the major aspects of the PASOK program as well as the reforms of the socialist government since 1981.

The Algerian side briefed the Greek side on the development of the political, economic, and social situation in Algeria and the initiatives of the FLN Party in accordance with the national charter.

Studying bilateral relations enabled the two sides to voice satisfaction over the positive developments achieved by the two parties and the progress attained through bilateral cooperation and exchanges. They expressed the hope of expanding and strengthening economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

Examining the international situation, the two sides affirmed their desire to turn the Mediterranean into a sea of peace, understanding, and cooperation.

The two parties reiterated their solidarity with the Palestinian people and the PLO, its sole legitimate representative, and declared that settling the Palestinian issue can only come about through recognizing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

The two parties affirmed their absolute solidarity with the Lebanese people in their struggle for independence and territorial integrity.

The two parties said that the Iran-Iraq conflict must be settled on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls on both sides to resolve the conflict between them by peaceful means.

They voiced strong concern for the arms race and hailed the agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States to eliminate medium-range missiles.

Concerning the Cyprus problem, the two sides stated that the settlement of this question requires the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the island and respect for its territorial integrity, independence, and nonaligned status.

The two sides called for implementing UN resolutions and backing all efforts made by the nonaligned countries for a peaceful negotiated settlement of this issue.

The two sides then studied the current situation in South Africa and expressed their support for the national liberation movements. They also reiterated their support for the struggle of the peoples of Western Sahara, South Africa, and Namibia under the leadership of their legitimate representatives: the Polisario, the African National Congress, and SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization].

The two sides also voiced deep concern over the tense situation in the Middle East.

The FLN Party greeted the efforts of Greece and the initiatives of Mr Papandreou for peace and security in the world.

PASOK greeted the efforts of Algeria and President Chadli Bendjedid to reinforce the Nonaligned Movement, the harmony of the OAU, as well as solidarity with the Arab peoples, especially their efforts for building the Greater Arab Maghreb.

### Bendjedid Congratulates Tunisia, Libya

*LD301434 Algiers APS in English 1114 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Algiers, 30 Dec (APS)—Following the resumption of diplomatic relations between Tunisia and Libya, Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic, FLN party secretary general addressed messages of congratulations to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhfi.

He expressed to them his deep satisfaction and the satisfaction of Algeria as well as his vow to continue developing relations with the two brother countries and to intensify joint efforts to accelerate the unitary edification process of the great Arab Maghreb.

## Chad

### Sudan's 'Lack of Sincerity' Condemned

*AB310711 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Station commentary]

[Text] A Sudanese official has admitted that there have been six confrontations in the Goz Beida region, east of our country. Sudanese Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad

al-Husayn, in an interview by the Sudanese daily, (AL-HIKIHAR), said that there have been confrontations between Chadian opposition elements and the Chadian National Armed Forces.

According to the minister, these armed elements operate under the command of Acheikh ibn Oumar. For the first time, Khartoum has recognized the presence of foreign troops on its territory. This is what Chad has always been condemning. (Yessin Kebir) has the details:

[Begin recording] [(Kebir)] Once again, there has been a gross contradiction on the part of Sudan. Sudanese Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn has stated that the last six confrontations in eastern Chad rather exposed the FANT to imaginary elements of Acheikh ibn Oumar.

This statement on the part of a Sudanese official, though distorted, all the same reveals a truth. In fact, for the first time, Sudan has recognized the presence of foreign troops on its territory.

But contrary to what Khartoum is saying, these troops are made up of the elements the Islamic Legion is regrouping among foreigners, notably Beninese, Malians, Niger nationals, Sudanese, Algerians, people from the Middle East, etc, who are well trained by Libyan officers. That is the truth.

Until then, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi or (Ali Hasan Kazadin), both members of the Sudanese Presidential Council, have denied this presence, thinking that they were escaping the vigilance of Chadian authorities. To add insult to injury, Khartoum cited the excellence of relations between Sudan and Chad. This is certainly a two-faced friendship.

But Chad cannot be deceived. Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, minister of interior, admitted in an interview by the Sudanese daily (AL-HIKIHAR) that there are pro-Libyan elements in the Darfour. Knowing that people will take them for Al-Qadhdhafi's Islamic Legion, the Sudanese minister of interior has preferred to use a metaphor, a style that is as blurry as the policy of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's regime.

Though Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn only lengthens the Khartoum authorities' list of contradictions, was it not (Ali Hasan Kazadin) who, after a lengthy stay in Ndjamena, claimed that the Aozou administrative post belonged to Libya? His Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi continuously denies the presence of Libyan troops in Sudan. Today Ahmad al-Husayn follows his steps by contending that these elements, who are under Acheikh ibn Oumar's command, are those who have been defeated six times by the FANT.

This statement shows that preparations for a new Libyan aggression against Chad under the cover of inter-Chadian fighting are actively under way at our country's borders. Through this statement, the Khartoum authorities' lack of sincerity in their relations with Chad can be perceived. [end recording]

### Ministers Take Habre Messages to 8 Countries

*AB302110 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Three Chadian ministers left this morning for seven West African countries. Assileck Halata left for Mauritania and Mali; Ouangmoutching Homsala went to visit Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Cape Verde; and Oudalbaye Naham left for Niger and Burkina Faso.

These ministers are all bearers of messages from President Hissein Habre, head of state, to his counterparts in Mauritania, Mali, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Niger, and Burkina Faso.

In addition, Minister Gouara Lassou left yesterday for Algiers. The Chadian foreign minister is carrying a message from President Hissein Habre to his Algerian counterpart, Chadli Bendjedid.

## Egypt

### AL-SAFIR Reports Meetings With Iranians

*NC310923 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 30 Dec 87 p 8*

[Text] Cairo, AL-SAFIR—It was confirmed in the Egyptian capital yesterday that Egyptian and Iranian officials met in Bucharest, the Romanian capital, during the period from 21 to 26 December.

Informed sources have stated that Egyptian political leaders received a report yesterday on the details of what took place during the first official meeting between Egyptian officials, who are believed to have been led by Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the Egyptian president's Office for Political Affairs, and Iranian officials, headed by an assistant to Iranian Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The sources added that Al-Baz has presented a report on the talks to President Husni Mubarak, containing a review of the subjects that were discussed, particularly the matter of Egyptian prisoners and the question of Iranian funds deposited in Egypt and the loans made to Egypt in the shah's time.

The sources added that the meetings begun in Bucharest will be resumed in Cairo between 27 and 30 December.

### 'Official Source' Denies Report

*NC302144 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—An Egyptian official source has denied the report published today by the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR to the effect that Egyptian and Iranian officials have held meetings in Bucharest to discuss the questions of the Egyptian captives in Iran and Iranian loans to Egypt.

In a statement to MENA, the source emphasized that this report is absolutely false.

### Mubarak Receives Southern Sudanese Official

*NC301945 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Samuel Aru, chairman of the Political Grouping in southern Sudan [title as heard], and the delegation accompanying him at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis today. The meeting was attended by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture.

In a statement he made after the meeting, the chairman of the Political Grouping in southern Sudan praised the fraternal relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples, as well as President Mubarak's efforts to reach a honorable and peaceful solution to the issue of southern Sudan. He added that he had come to Egypt primarily to express his thanks to President Mubarak for his initiative to improve Sudanese-Ethiopian relations.

He noted that he had asked President Mubarak to continue his endeavors and initiatives to improve relations between the north and south of Sudan, so that the Sudanese people could establish a relationship of cooperation to resolve their domestic problems and so that peace could prevail throughout the country.

Samuel Aru expressed his optimism for the efforts Egypt is exerting to solve the issue of southern Sudan, noting that Egypt represents a model of peace, security, and coexistence among religions. He added that Egypt's views receive a favorable response from both Sudan and Ethiopia and, therefore, it is capable of resolving this problem peacefully.

### 'Abd al-Majid on Plans To Deport Palestinians

*NC301334 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt is following with very close interest and with deep concern the statements made by some Israeli leaders about the deportation from their homeland of a number of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement issued today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the implementation of this arbitrary measure, which is considered an unjustified escalation, is a clear violation of the rules of international law and the 1949 Geneva Conventions. In particular, it violates the fourth convention concerning the protection of civilian populations, which clearly lays down the responsibilities and duties of the occupying state toward the inhabitants of occupied territories.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that Egypt has supported the Palestinian people's uprising on the grounds that it is a legitimate right of a people who have long been deprived of the basic liberties recognized by the international community.

Egypt has also denounced the suppressive Israeli practices against this uprising, which resulted in the martyrdom of scores of unarmed persons and the wounding of hundreds of others, as well as widespread arrests that amount to a deprivation of freedom of opinion and expression.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that Israel's resolve to deport hundreds of Palestinians from their homeland is regarded, from the Egyptian viewpoint, as an action that is contrary to international legitimacy and as a violation of the human values that are recognized by the international community. It also represents a new obstacle to the efforts for peace and, indeed, a prelude to deepening the feelings of frustration and despair from which the Palestinian Arab people are suffering.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt hopes that the voice of reason and wisdom will prevail and that Israel will pursue policies that are consistent with international law, stop practicing violence, arrests, and deportations, and begin a new page by dealing with the issue in a civilized, democratic, and humanitarian manner, without using methods of forcible suppression which history has always proved to be futile.

### Al-Baz on Defense Pact, Israel's Options

*NC310909 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Kuwait, 31 Dec (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, has asserted that the Collective Arab Defense Pact is not canceled by any subsequent treaties.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH, to be published in installments over the next few days, beginning with the first part today, President Mubarak's adviser revealed that Israel and the United States tried during the [Camp David] peace negotiations to persuade Egypt to include a clause in the first draft agreement to the effect that the accord would supersede any of the two parties' former commitments. Egypt, however, rejected that clause, as U.S. documents prove.

Dr al-Baz said that Israel tried to send one of its ministers to Cairo to brief Egypt on Israel's stand on the events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Egypt rejected this and officially protested these practices once every 3 days to the Israeli Government, he said.

He warned Israel that its occupation of the territories will produce grave consequences in 25 years' time, when the Arabs of the occupied territories will outnumber the Jews.

He added that Israel has two options: either to abandon the Zionist dream of setting up a Jewish state that has no room for others, or to reduce the number of Arabs by forcing them to emigrate. This, he added, would condemn the Jews in the eyes of the international community, and therefore Israel has no choice but to accept peace with the Arabs, which implicitly means peace with the Palestinians.

Regarding President Mubarak's forthcoming Gulf tour, Dr al-Baz said the purpose of the tour is to express the ties of affection between Egypt and its Arab brethren and to show that all are standing in the same trench. He added that President Mubarak and his Arab brothers will assess the present situation and discuss war developments and the chances of success for the peace efforts.

Dr al-Baz said he does not expect the international conference to be held in 1988 because of the Israeli elections. However, he added, the New Year will witness efforts by the parties concerned.

The president's adviser called for agreement on a united Arab stand, particularly as there are contacts between the two great powers and efforts are being made by the five permanent Security Council members to achieve peace.

## U.S. Closure of PLO Office Denounced

*NC290716 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 28 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has denounced the U.S. decision to close down the PLO office in New York. The paper says that there are some in Washington who can, by virtue of their authority, annul not only U.S. constitutional obligations, but also the international obligations of the United States within the United States itself, just to satisfy some voters.

In an editorial in Tuesday's edition, the paper notes that Washington's earlier decision to close the PLO's "propaganda" office in the United States was expected at the beginning of the presidential election season, which brings Zionist-Israeli pressure to bear on the election campaign and the candidates who seek the extremely influential Jewish vote.

The paper says that the claim by the Americans that the PLO is responsible for or supports so-called terrorist actions is flimsy by any standards. Nonetheless, Washington had "a clear conscience" about closing the office so as not to hinder Jewish propaganda efforts on behalf of the Republican Party, which Reagan's government represents and which is seeking to win the next election.

The paper adds that the situation regarding the PLO's office and the question of the PLO's representation at the United Nations are different. Congress' decision to close down the PLO mission's office is, in fact, an aggression against and in defiance of U.S. sovereignty itself.

In addition to contradicting the principles of the UN Charter and UN objectives, it also wrecks the headquarters agreement which the United States signed and under which it has been playing host to the UN delegations, giving them all right to protection and immunity and providing them with a proper atmosphere in which to fulfill their mission.

This is the situation to which UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar drew attention recently and which was unanimously endorsed by the UN General Assembly, with the exception of Israel's opposing vote and the abstention of the United States, the country which is mainly concerned in this matter.

## USSR Trade Official Makes Statement, Departs

*NC301416 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—Vladimir Burmistrov, Soviet deputy foreign trade minister, and his accompanying delegation left Cairo for home this afternoon after a 4-day official visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, Burmistrov said the main purpose of the delegation's visit to Cairo had been the signing of a long-term 3-year bilateral agreement, the first of its kind in 12 years.

According to the agreement, the volume of trade between the two countries for the year 1988 will reach 600 million rubles, 20 percent more than the preceding year, he added. The volume of trade between the two countries in the next 3 years will also rise by 50 percent in comparison to the year 1987.

The Soviet official concluded his statement by saying that it had been agreed with the Egyptian Ministry of Economy to send an Egyptian economic delegation to the USSR in June and July to review the articles of the agreement and follow up its implementation.

It should be noted that during his visit the Soviet guest met with a number of officials of the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade.

## Libya

### Arab Summit To Discuss Palestinians Urged

*LD302200 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] This evening the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned members of the Arab diplomatic missions in the Great Jamahiriyah to convey to them the Great Jamahiriyah's call to convene an emergency Arab League foreign ministers conference as soon as possible.

The meeting's goal would be to construct a unified plan to confront the tragic situation facing our Arab people in occupied Palestine and to issue instructions to Arab UN delegates to adopt a unified and decisive stand on this issue, particularly in the Security Council.

The conference should also draft measures to prevent a Zionist action evicting the population of the occupied areas, thereby leading to their destitution.

They should also work to prevent the Zionist gangs from implementing this measure planned by the Zionist occupiers.

This would be accomplished by refusing to receive those expelled or made homeless by the Zionist gangs.

The call of the Great Jamahiriyah also includes a request to work for forming committees to collect donations, aid, and relief supplies to send to the masses of the uprising in occupied Palestine.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stressed to the brother members of the Arab diplomatic missions that the Great Jamahiriyah will give all assistance and support to the brother Arabs who have risen up in occupied Palestine.

It will be committed to any unified program the brother Arabs may adopt in this framework.

## Sudan

### Egypt's Ghali Makes Statement on Arrival

*JN301636 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1557 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Khartoum this afternoon at the end of an African tour of Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia. Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah welcomed him at the airport. In press statements, Dr Ghali said the purpose of his visit to Sudan is to coordinate between the Egyptian and Sudanese Foreign Ministries, stressing that diplomatic coordination between the two countries exists in international, African, and Arab fora. Dr Ghali explained that the two countries will hold consultations at the OAU ministerial conference next February and the Urku [as received] group's conference in Bangui in August.

The Egyptian minister said during his tour he met with Presidents Museveni, Mengistu Haile Mariam, and Daniel arap Moi within the framework of consultations among the Nile Basin states. He added that he briefed them on the latest efforts Egypt has exerted with regard to the situation in the occupied territories and Gaza, and Egypt's stand on the convocation of an international conference.

Butrus Ghali said in his statement that during his meetings with the three African leaders he discussed the differences between Sudan and Ethiopia and the need to resolve them within the OAU Charter.

His excellency affirmed that the (?Egyptian) role to resolve Ethiopian-Sudanese differences is merely encouragement for both sides to hold a dialogue. This issue concerns the two countries. He added that he did not discuss an Al-Sadiq-Mengistu meeting because there is direct contact between Egypt and Sudan in this regard. [sentence as received]

His excellency denied the existence of any contact between Egypt and the rebel movement because Egypt considers the existing problem internal. He said Egypt welcomes any dialogue with Sudan within the framework of the Sudanese- Egyptian joint committee. He said he felt a great desire between Sudan and Ethiopia to peacefully resolve their differences.

### Arab Aid Allegedly Helped Regain Kurmuk

*JN310704 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] On behalf of the Sudanese military command, the commander of the Blue Nile Province has affirmed that several Arab states—particularly Saudi Arabia and Iraq, as well as Jordan, Egypt, and Libya—have extended important military assistance to the Sudanese Armed Forces, which was an effective contribution toward the successful offensive against the rebels and regaining Kurmuk town.

### Commentary Rejects Claim of Foreign Support

*EA301734 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1100 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Commentary by Emmanuel Ambrose Ocholi-Moi]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] You, the Sudanese people, have heard about the disease that afflicts Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, a disease which actually rejects the blacks. When the SPLA captures a town from the northern part of Sudan, they start to cry and raise funds, and some say:

How can the SPLA really capture such a big part of our territory? What about us? Where do they think we belong? Maybe they have already divided Sudan. [passage omitted]

You also know that the prime minister is crying that a foreign country is supporting the SPLA in capturing these towns, as in the case of the capture of Kurmuk. This lie, listeners, is to support him in receiving assistance from the Arab world and to hide the presence of foreign troops in Sudan. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi should tell you where these foreign troops came from, from which country, as well as their mission inside Sudan. Those who are said to be guarding the dam in Rusayris, are they Sudanese? And where is the Sudanese Army in any case? Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi must by all means accept the defeat that forced him to hire mercenaries from a foreign country to guard against and fight the SPLA.

We must assure you, people, that there are no foreign troops alongside the SPLA combatants. Maybe it is because the town is near Ethiopia. Now suppose we capture Yei. Zaire definitely will be blamed. The same applies to Nimule, Kapoeta, and so forth.

We are not scared that he is after assistance from his Arab brothers by continuing to tell them that in this war the blacks are against the Arabs. If this war really is as Al-Sadiq says, what would have happened to the Arabs who are with us here in the movement? Of course, we would have killed them a long time ago. But these Arabs who are now in the SPLM/SPLA came to fight the corrupt regimes in Sudan to implement a complete change in the Khartoum government.

We would only bring foreign troops to fight alongside us if we were already defeated like Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who has hired mercenaries to help him.

## Western Sahara

### Communique Reports Attack, Territory Captured

*LD301941 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic*
*1830 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] A communique issued today by the SDAR Information Ministry says that the Saharan Army launched a violent attack this morning against forces of the Moroccan Army stationed in the Haouza sector.

In the attack, the Saharan troops took control of a 15-km-long front which enabled them to drive away the Moroccan reinforcement troops.

The communique adds that this daring operation, which comes in the context of the counterattacks against the occupation army undertaken by the Saharan Army since the beginning of the year, has resulted in the killing and wounding of a number of Moroccan troops, while several others were captured.

The Saharan Army also captured and destroyed important military hardware, including a military vehicle.

The final results of this attack will be made public by the Saharn Information Ministry in a forthcoming communique.

## Kuwait

### Austrian Interior Minister Pays Official Visit

#### Talks Focus on Terrorism

*AU301453 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 30 Dec 87 p 1*

[Text] Kuwait—Austria and Kuwait plan to strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism. A corresponding statement by Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah was published yesterday by the AL-QABAS newspaper.

On Monday [28 December] Interior Minister Karl Blecha continued his official visit to Kuwait, which lasts until Wednesday, with the inspection of police institutions. He visited a computer center and the headquarters of the investigation service of the criminal police.

According to Shaykh Nawwaf, his talks with Blecha, who has been staying in the Gulf state since Saturday [26 December], focused on cooperation in fighting terrorism. According to the newspaper, he stressed that Austria has "long-standing experience" in the sphere of combating terrorism. Numerous attacks have occurred in Kuwait since December 1983, which have been largely attributed to Iran.

On the previous days Blecha discussed security issues as well as the expansion of cooperation in the fight against terrorism and drug smuggling with leading Kuwaiti representatives. Apart from Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf, his interlocutors included Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait, as well as Sa'ud Muhammad al-Usaymi, minister of foreign affairs. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the intensification of contacts that has taken place over the past few years.

The Kuwaiti officials expressed appreciation for Austria's Middle East policy, whereby special mention was made of the humanitarian refugee policy. Further topics were the Gulf war, the unrest in the Israeli occupied territories, as well as the meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which ended yesterday in Riyadh.

Both sides spoke in favor of limiting the Gulf conflict and condemned the most recent escalation of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Blecha paid special tribute to the stabilizing role of the Gulf Cooperation Council in this region.

#### Interviewed by AL-QABAS

*JN302112 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 29 Dec 87 p 7*

[Interview with Austrian Interior Minister Karl Blecha by 'Abbas Nazim in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Nazim] Did President Kurt Waldheim ask you to convey a message to his highness the amir of Kuwait?

[Blecha] I conveyed two oral messages to His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait. The first was from President Waldheim and the second from the Austrian chancellor. The two messages deal with advanced bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

[Nazim] What topics did you dicuss with Kuwait Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah?

[Blecha] Our discussions with Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah dealt with ways to promote security relations between our two ministries, and joint cooperation in all security fields, particularly how to combat terrorism since the two countries have had a good experience in combating terrorism. We also discussed the exchange of expertise between our two ministries. [passage omitted]

[Nazim] It has been reported that Austria has become a center for welcoming Iranian Jews prior to their transfer to Israel. How true are these reports?

[Blecha] As interior minister and the official in charge of the security organs in my country, I am in a position to say to you that there are some U.S. organizations that are helping Iranian Jews immigrate to Israel through Vienna. However, afterwards these Iranian Jews leave for the United States. Not a single Iranian Jew leaves Vienna for Israel because we do not permit this. This transfer proceeds from humanitarian Austrian traditions that guarnatee a secure life on its territory to all refugees in the world regardless of their nationality, religion, or language. For this reason, Austria agreed to do this when the U.S. organizations offered their services to help Iranian Jews leave Iran for Vienna and from there to the United States.

[Nazim] In your capacity as interior minister, you asked for an investigation of the Voest-Alpine weapons production company in view of an Austrian arms deal with Iran. What were the results of this investigation and how do you tackle such arms deal which affect Austria's reputation?

[Blecha] The issue you mention is currently being handled by the courts, which are responsible for all of the investigations that are under way on this issue. I would like to emphasize here that there is close supervision in Austria of all military materials that cross Austrian borders with respect to their number, quantities, or destination. The issue in question involves the export of 140 Austrian guns that were dispatched to Iran through a third Arab party.

Investigations are under way to pinpoint how the export license was granted and how the guns reached Iran. This issue does not indicate that the company intended to sell these guns to Iran because of the manner in which the deal was concluded through an Arab country since this violates Austrian laws.

### Concludes Visit, Departs

*LD301903 Kuwait KUNA in English 1758 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 30 (KUNA)—Austrian Interior Minister Karl Blecha and the delegation accompanying him left here Wednesday at the end of a five-day visit to Kuwait.

The minister was seen off by Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, the Governor of Hawalli Shaykh Salman al-Hamud al-Salman al-Sabah and other ministry officials.

Blecha held official talks with Shaykh Nawwaf on bilateral relations and cooperation in the exchange of expertise and police information.

Blecha visited a number of security installations and got acquainted with the work at them.

### Prime Minister Receives Palestinian Delegation

*LD301421 Kuwait KUNA in English 1310 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 30 (KUNA)—His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Wednesday expressed pride in the heroic Palestinian struggle for the liberation of Palestine.

Shaykh Sa'd made the remark in an audience with a Palestinian delegation that included director of the Palestine Liberation Organization office here 'Awni Battash at the Council of Ministers premises today.

H.H. said all Arabs stand with the Palestinian people in their just fight against the Israeli occupation.

He noted that, Kuwait's support to the Palestinian cause is a national and pan-Arab duty.

Shaykh Sa'd appreciated the Palestinian contribution in the progress of Kuwait, stressing the need for Arab unity for the liberation of Palestine.

For his part the PLO representative here expressed thanks for the Kuwaiti support of the Palestinian uprising and revolutionary [as received].

Battash renewed the PLO's support and solidarity with Kuwait against any aggression.

## Oman

### Decree Appoints New Justice, State Ministers

*JN301453 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Dec 87*

["Text" of Decree No 92/87 issued by Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id on 30 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Sultani Decree No 92/87 introducing changes in the cabinet formation.

We, Qabus ibn Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, after taking cognizance of Sultani Decree No 26/75 and its amendments on the issuance of a law regulating the state's administrative apparatus, and in accordance with the requirements of public welfare, decree the following:

Article 1: Hilal ibn Hamad Al Bu Sa'idi shall be appointed a state adviser for Islamic affairs.

Article 2: Hilal ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib Al Bu Sa'idi shall be appointed minister of justice, awqaf, and Islamic affairs.

Article 3: Musallam ibn 'Ali Al Bu Sa'idi shall be appointed a minister of state and governor of Dhofar.

Article 4: This decree shall be published in the official gazette and become valid as of the date of its issuance.

Issued on 9 Jumada al-Ula 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 30 December 1987

[Signed] Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman

## PDRY

### Death Sentences Reportedly Carried Out in Aden

*NC311059 Paris AFP in English 1030 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 31 (AFP)—Five men condemned to death in connection with the coup in South Yemen last January that ousted President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad have been executed in Aden, a newspaper reported here Thursday.

The newspaper, AL-ITTIHAD, said the five—all associates of the former president—were executed Tuesday after their sentences were endorsed on Sunday by the South Yemen parliament.

The five, along with 30 others including ex-President Muhammad who is currently in exile in North Yemen were condemned to death December 12 by the country's Supreme Court.

Parliament subsequently commuted 24 of the sentences. Six of the 11 men whose death sentences were upheld had fled abroad.

Authorities in South Yemen have not confirmed the AL-ITTIHAD report but sources in Aden say executions are rarely announced publicly.

Those said to be have been executed are: Faruq 'Ali Ahmad, former member of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), 'Alawi Husayn Farhan, former deputy minister for state security, Hadi Ahmad Nasir, a YSP official in Aden, Ahmad Husayn Musa, former Air Force chief of staff, and Mubarak Salim Ahmad, former head of the Presidential Guard Corps.

President Muhammad and his associates were charged with having provoked disturbances in January 1986 between rival factions of the YSP that took the lives of 4,000 people according to an official toll.

Several foreign leaders and public figures, including Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the French president, have appealed to the current president of South Yemen, Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, to spare the lives of those sentenced to death.

### Former President Comments on Death Sentences

*PM301629 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Dec 87 pp 1, 2*

[Unattributed report: "Impossible Reconciliation Between 'Ali Nasir and Aden"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Arab diplomatic circles have interpreted the decision made by the Supreme People's Council Presidium in Aden, which convened the day before yesterday, Sunday, under the chairmanship of President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, to endorse the death sentence against former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and some of his aides and advisers, some of whom are currently residing in Sanaa, as being a decision to continue escalating the conflict with the former YSP secretary general and his followers right to the end.

The same sources have described this decision, which has been made after many mediation efforts and appeals had been made by a number of Arab leaders and human rights organizations, as a hard-line decision confirming the new leadership's commitment to continuing an intransigent policy. [passage omitted]

In Sanaa, President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who has been sentenced to death, has described the decision to endorse the death sentence as a negation of all means aimed at achieving reconciliation and a means of settling differences between the two parties fighting over power in Aden.

Former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who spoke to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his residence in Sanaa, indicated that the endorsement of the sentences against him and his followers reflects nothing but disdain for all the appeals and contacts made with Aden's leaders over the past 2 weeks.

The leaders of Sanaa, Kuwait, and Adu Dhabi had sent messages asking for the sentences passed against President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his followers to be reconsidered.

The former PDRY president had warned that unless Aden rulers went back on their decisions, resort to reason, and place the interests of the people in the southern part before their own interests, there would be every possibility that something would be done to put a limit to their acts.

In reply to a question about the possibility of resorting to violence, President 'Ali Nasir said: Anything is possible, especially if we exhaust diplomatic means and the praiseworthy efforts being made by the brothers, foremost YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, in order to spare bloodshed. [passage omitted]

### YSP Central Committee Discusses Economic Plan

*EA302054 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Excerpts] The YSP Central Committee yesterday evening concuded its 11th session, which was held from 27 to 29 December under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee. The Central Committee issued a statement on the work of its 11th session. [passage omitted]

The Central Committee stressed that it is important for all our tasks and contacts to be based on the principle of the leading role of the party, and to strengthen the party, promote its role, strengthen its powers among the masses, determine its activities according to lofty ideals, and improve the methods and means of its day-to-day operations, because this constitutes a firm foundation for the party's success in leading the comprehensive and progressive construction process and in securing the continuation and durability of that success. [passage omitted]

Taking note of the 1988 draft plan for economic and social development, the Central Committee assessed the positive aspects that are being strengthened day by day in the course of economic, social, and cultural activity, and stressed the need for the plan to meet the increasing basic demands of the population and to accord greater attention to developing productive sectors in the fields of agriculture, industry, and fisheries, as well as to appropriately utilize available potential. It stressed the need to encourage the creative energies of the masses of our

country's toilers to implement the economic and social development plan for 1988 and consider it a guideline in economic and social activity for next year. [passage omitted]

## Saudi Arabia

### Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives on 'Brief Visit'

*LD311141 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1102 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 31 Dec (SPA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Riyadh this morning on a brief visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

### Egyptian Ambassador Arrives in Jeddah

*LD302229 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2210 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Jeddah, 30 Dec (SPA)—This evening Sayid Qasim al-Misri, Egyptian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, arrived in Jeddah. He was received at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by Salim Sunbul, director general of the Jeddah branch of the Foreign Ministry; the Egyptian consul in Jeddah; and a number of officials.

### Deputy Minister on Relations With USSR

*LD310941 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0858 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Kuwait—Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, said that the presence of Soviets on Afghan soil is one of the reasons or obstacles standing in the way of establishing political relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union.

He said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has various relations with the Soviet Union but not political relations.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti AL-QABAS published today, he pointed out that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not link the process of purchasing arms with a specific state, and that no one has influence over the Kingdom. If Saudi Arabia is compelled to purchase weapons, he said, it will do so from any country without consulting others.

## Yemen Arab Republic

### Salih Receives Soviet Envoy, Gorbachev Message

*JN301227 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Veniamin Popov, USSR ambassador to our country, in his office this morning.

The Soviet ambassador handed the president a message from CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in which he congratulates the president on the New Year. The message also deals with a number of issues of common interest between the two friendly countries.

### Radio Carries Salih RENMIN RIBAO Interview

*JN301613 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 87*

["Text" of interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by RENMIN RIBAO "during his official visit to the PRC" published on 30 December]

[Text] Question: Your Excellency, will you discuss your historic visit to China and the objectives expected from this visit?

Answer: Our visit to the friendly PRC is an expression of the depth of friendship and cooperative relations that have existed between the two friendly countries for a long time and to reinforce these relations in the service of the two countries' mutual interests. The visit aims at discussing with Chinese leaders the overall issues of common interest, particularly the Gulf war and the need for effective international initiatives to end it, and to peacefully resolve the Iraq-Iran conflict.

This is in addition to giving momentum to international efforts to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue. We also exchanged opinions vis-a-vis a number of international issues and the peaceful trends to find balanced economic relations on the basis of a just international economic system and to maintain world security and peace.

Question: We would like you to discuss the future of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

Answer: Relations between the two friendly countries are strong. We hope this visit will be a good opportunity and strong motive to develop these relations and open broad spheres for bilateral cooperation in many fields.

Question: Your Excellency, in light of the economic achievements of your friendly country in recent years, how do you depict the future of the YAR's economic and development structure in the next stage?

Answer: Undoubtedly, our country has made long strides in the economic and development field. Our future objectives are defined in the third 5-year development plan which concentrates on completing the infrastructure projects in our development; developing the agricultural and industrial sectors, which depend on local raw materials; bolstering intrinsic potential; and continuing efforts to recover and exploit natural resources.

Question: We would like to know the Yemeni opinion of the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf war.

Answer: We consider the Palestinian issue the Arabs' first cause and the central issue in the Middle East problem, which threatens regional and world security and peace. This issue must be resolved in a just and permanent way to guarantee the Palestinian Arab people's national, legitimate rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

This calls for supporting international efforts to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East in the presence of the Security Council permanent members and the parties to the conflict, including the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties.

The serious escalation in the Gulf war constitutes a serious threat to regional security and stability and world peace. Intensive efforts and persistent endeavors must be exerted to convince Iran to respond to the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for an end to the war and fighting in accordance with the articles of this resolution. Each state should also shoulder its responsibility to help halt this war and avoid any attempt to continue and escalate it.

Question: Would Your Excellency like to say something to the Chinese people before leaving Beijing?

Answer: We are very pleased with our visit to the PRC to acquaint ourselves with the comprehensive cultural accomplishments achieved by the Chinese people. We are confident that the results of the talks with the friendly Chinese leaders will strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs in the service of our common trends to achieve justice, security, and peace in the world. On this occasion we do not forget the support presented by the friendly Chinese people to our country and the role played by Chinese engineers and workers to implement a number of development projects.

### Tariq 'Aziz Meets PLO's 'Arafat in Baghdad

*JN301819 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here this evening with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

During the meeting, developments in the vehement popular uprising in the occupied territories were reviewed.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister affirmed Iraq's full support for the Palestinian people's steadfastness in their struggle for the sake of regaining their legitimate rights under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. 'Arafat arrived here earlier today.

## Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

### Communique No 2,969

*JN301757 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Communique No 2,969 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through their heroic activities, our valiant Armed Forces affirm their constant ability and preparedness to destroy the enemies and crush their war machine.

The results of their activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force carried out 23 combat missions against enemy units, inflicting more losses on the scoundrel Khomeyniites. Afterwards, our planes returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Enemy forces attempted to approach the forward barriers of one of our units in the II Army Corps central sector yesterday. The valiant men of the Army Corps confronted the enemy forces with all types of weapons.

As is customary for them in terms of bravery and valor, our men managed to kill or injure most of the attacking force while the remainder fled.

Elsewhere in the same sector, five enemy scoundrels were killed. God bless our strong men in the heroic II Army Corps sector.

3. A personnel position was destroyed and the occupants killed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. One of our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah opened fire on an enemy group, killing most of its personnel, while the few remnants were forced to flee.

5. One 106-mm gun was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. Three scoundrels were killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

7. The brave port force confronted six enemy boats which attempted to approach Al-'Amiq Port and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 December 1987

### Sinking of 2 Boats Denied

*JN311152 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1137 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims about sinking two Iraqi boats in Khawr 'Abdallah last night.

A military spokesman told INA at noon today that these lies are baseless and affirm the Iranian regime's successive failings.

The Iraqi military spokesman added that not a single Iraqi boat was shelled.

**Turkish Envoy Vows Serious Approach on Bombs**
*TA310911 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Dec 87 pp 1, 8*

[Report by Andy Court and Menahem Shalev in Jerusalem and "special correspondent" in Ankara]

[Excerpts] The return address on eight letter-bombs received by Israelis during the last two days was that of an Istanbul hotel—the Dilson—frequented by Arabs, Turkish police said yesterday. "This does not of course prove that Arabs sent them or that they were really sent from there," Istanbul Deputy Police Chief Mehmet Agar said. [passage omitted]

The Turkish charge d'affaires in Israel, Ekrem Guvendiren, pledged yesterday that the "matter will be dealt with most seriously."

Postal authorities in Istanbul said they were mystified as to how the letter-bombs got through their security checks, and added that they couldn't remember a similar action in recent years. One postal official in charge of security said the Turkish post office has a special unit that checks letters and parcels for explosives. He said that letters intended for Arab countries and Israel are subjected to special scrutiny.

Istanbul police have launched an investigation to locate the sender of the letter-bombs. Deputy police chief Agar said a check of the Dilson Hotel's records showed that no one with the name D. Nissim had stayed there recently. The surname is common among Turkish Jews. He said police were trying to find which district post office the letters had been mailed from, in the hope that an employee might remember what the sender looked like. [passage omitted]

**Turkish 'Terrorist' Involved in Gaza Unrest**
*TA311204 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Dec 87 p A4*

[Report from Istanbul by S. Kohen]

[Excerpt] A Turkish terrorist played an important role in the recent unrest in the territories. This is reported by the popular Turkish daily SABAH in an article by a correspondent who was sent to Gaza. The correspondent, (Savas Ayi), managed to track down the man, who agreed only to identify himself as "Koca Yusuf." He reports that following his involvement in leftist terrorist activities within the framework of the outlawed "Turkish People's Army," he left Turkey in 1979 for Lebanon, where he joined the Palestinian ranks. In 1982, when the PLO withdrew from Lebanon, the man reached Sidon and later Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, where he served as a terrorist trainer.

He made the following confession: "I planned and led several anti-Israeli attacks, some of them suicide missions. I also took part in operations inside Israel. Here in Gaza we do not use firearms because the Israeli Army is brutal. Instead, we use stones and molotov cocktails. We are trying to help the local inhabitants organize and carry out their struggle against the conquest of their land. The Israelis' conduct is currently subject to condemnation in many places." [passage omitted]

**Soviet Consular Team To Leave 'Within Weeks'**
*TA291406 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Dec 87 p 1*

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The Soviet consular mission here is expected to pack its bags and leave the country within two to three weeks, officials in Jerusalem said yesterday. The current visa of the eight-man delegation, whose ostensible task here has been to renew passports for Soviet citizens and survey Soviet properties, expires on January 14. The mission, which arrived in July for three months, has not asked for a further extension of its stay. Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday that they had reason to believe it will not do so.

The mission has been virtually unemployed after having renewed several hundred passports of Soviet citizens—mainly clergy—and assigning matters concerning Soviet property interests to Israeli attorneys. The extended stay of the mission originally inspired speculation that the Soviets intended to establish a permanent diplomatic presence here.

If the Soviets do decide to submit a last minute request for an extension of their stay, the government may well decide to refuse it. A senior official in the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday that the Soviets have been exploiting the mission's stay here in order to claim, in talks with the U.S., that they have improved their relations with Israel, while Israel itself reaps no benefits from the mission's presence.

The official said that Israel has been outmaneuvered in its dealings over the mission, first dropping its demand for simultaneous reciprocity from the Soviets, then temporarily shelving its demand for reciprocity, and finally giving up on the matter altogether. "We must put an end to this," the official said.

The Foreign Ministry is not too enthusiastic about the Soviet mission either. Senior ministry officials, and Foreign Minister Peres himself, have spoken recently of a "hardening" in the Soviet position on the peace talks. The officials said a recent Soviet speech at the UN General Assembly had dashed hopes for Soviet flexibility.

The officials added that the last extension of the mission's stay here, given in September, came against the backdrop of Peres's planned meeting in New York with

the Soviet foreign minister and a more optimistic view of the Soviet position on the peace process. Currently, they said, there is no reason to "reward" the Soviets.

The Foreign Ministry, however, dismisses the importance of reciprocity. Israel has rejected a Soviet offer that each state open an interest section in the other's territory and insists on full diplomatic relations, the officials said. In this context, they added, the original Israeli demand for reciprocity has lost importance.

### Increase in Tourism 'Change' in Soviet Policy

*TA291759 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Dec 87 pp 1, 2*

[Report by Aharon Pri'el]

[Text] "Glasnost" has come to tourism between the Soviet Union and Israel. Many tourists from the Soviet Union have recently been arriving in Israel to visit relatives, and Israeli citizens have been traveling to the Soviet Union for the same purpose. Last week in the Moscow OVIR [Visa and Registration Department] office a placard was hung, which said: "Those wishing to visit Israel can now submit their request." This was said in a telephone conversation by a Moscow woman to her daughter who lives in Israel . The Public Committee for Soviet Jewry and other sources confirmed that such a placard was put up in Moscow's OVIR office.

The wave of tourism between the two countries increased lately after it became clear that the emigration authorities in the Soviet Union are permitting Soviet citizens to visit relatives in Israel and are willing to give Israeli citizens visas to visit relatives in the USSR. Up to now, Israelis who wanted to visit their families in the Soviet Union had to make their requests, with the attached "invitation documents" from the Soviet Union, via RAKAH. In the past few months, the regulations were changed. Dozens of Israelis visited relatives in the Soviet Union without going through the RAKAH "channel." These Israelis received their visas in one of the East European countries.

Shmu'el Ben-Tzvi, head of the information department in the Public Committee for Soviet Jewry, said yesterday that "the phenomenon of tourism between the Soviet Union and Israel is an expression of the changes in Soviet policy toward granting greater freedom of movement to its citizens."

A visitor from the Soviet Union who arrived about a month ago to visit his family in Israel told MA'ARIV yesterday that when he asked the OVIR office in his home town for a visa to Israel, he was told: "No problem, present your request." The tourist added that he attached to his request an invitation from his relatives in Israel and that he waited 3 months before receiving approval, for which he paid R200. "With the approval from OVIR I went to the Netherlands Embassy in Moscow; within 2 weeks I received the visa for Israel," he added.

## Disturbances Resume in Territories, Other Areas

### W. Bank, Gaza Incidents

*TA311140 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] An IDF officer was lightly wounded by a stone thrown at him in the Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah. The officer was treated on the spot, and a curfew was clamped on the camp. There were attempts to spark disturbances in several other places in Judaea and Samaria. Relatives of those arrested after the wave of disturbances demonstrated outside the military court in Nabulus but were dispersed. The security forces prevented cameramen from filming the demonstration out of concern that their presence would inflame tempers.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that demonstrators and stone throwers were dispersed in the 'Askar and Balatah refugee camps. A demonstration was also dispersed in Qalandiyah and an Israeli vehicle was stoned in the village of Al-Zahiriyah. There were no casualties or damage. Some of the stone throwers were caught.

There was quiet in the Gaza Strip today. Leaflets calling on the inhabitants to strike and demonstrate were distributed today in the territories. There was a partial commercial strike today in Ramallah and Al-Birah. The merchants opened their businesses after the security forces began to mark the shops.

### E. Jerusalem Bus Stoned

*TA310628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Stones were thrown last night at an Israeli bus in East Jerusalem. The incident took place on Sultan Sulayman Street. Two of the passengers on the bus were lightly injured by flying glass.

### Bus Stoned Near Abu Ghaush

*TA311357 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] A No 405 Egged bus traveling from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was stoned near the Arab village of Abu Ghaush a short time ago. The driver's windshield was shattered. At this point it is not known whether anyone was injured.

### Police Prepared for Fatah Day; 10 More Arrests

*TA310625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] In view of the lessons learned following last week's disturbances in the Arab sector, the police have obtained armored vehicles from the IDF. All weekend leave in police ranks has been canceled in preparation for Fatah Day tomorrow. Another 10 terrorists, previously released in the deal with 'Ahmad Jibril, were rearrested over the past 24 hours.

### Arab Youth Killed Crossing Border to Jordan

*JN310801 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] An IDF spokesman announced last night that an Arab youth was killed last night when he tried to cross the Jordanian-Israeli border to Jordanian territory east of kibbutz Mehola. The spokesman added that an IDF unit spotted this youth at about 1930 last night while he was trying to cut the security fence on the Jordanian-Israeli border with special scissors. When this youth refused to respond to the unit's orders to halt, several bullets were fired at him, which resulted in his death.

Our military correspondent, Rosette Hakim, reports that the security forces have started their inquiries to identify this youth.

### Minister Says Deportations 'To Continue'

*TA311355 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Justice Minister Avraham Sharir says Israel will continue to deport Arab agitators from the territories. He believes this is one of the effective steps which has do be used. Minister Sharir told our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz that he regrets the fact that such steps were not taken prior to the last disturbances, because this would have prevented the deterioration in the situation.

### Inner Cabinet Views Territories, Arab Sector

*TA310941 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Dec 87 p A2*

[Report by Refa'el Mann]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has recommended that the defense establishment try to minimize the informational and political damage that could be caused to Israel's name abroad if the decision to expel agitators is executed. Another Foreign Ministry recommendation is that everything be done to make sure that material, including information on the deportees' activities, be made available to Israel's representatives abroad so that they can present the media with persuasive arguments and justify the deportations.

In its meeting yesterday, the Inner Cabinet was told that the defense establishment is continuing to examine the possibility of deporting agitators and provocateurs from the territories. The members of the Inner Cabinet forum heard details about the trials of the demonstrators and instigators. The fact that the trials fully correspond with international law and the rules applied in Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria was emphasized.

The ministers also heard reports about the situation in the territories from the defense minister, the chief of staff, and additional defense sources. They were briefed on the reinforcements that have been sent to those areas in anticipation of possible disturbances tomorrow, 1 January, the anniversary of the founding of Fatah.

The security sources expressed their belief that the disturbances in the territories were sporadic, individual incidents initiated by small groups of agitators, while the majority of the residents in the territories wish to live in peace and quiet and to continue to follow a normal routine.

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said during the debate that internal Arab terrorism must be wiped out, and that the deportation of instigators would be an effective means to achieve that. Other Likud ministers expressed support for the tough policy applied against inciters and agitators.

The Inner Cabinet continued to discuss the Israeli Arab issue yesterday. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres opposed the proposal that penal measures be taken against the committee of Arab local council heads, saying that such a move would only strengthen the extremist elements in the Arab world. Some Likud ministers said that that body should not be recognized as a political entity. It was decided that the discussion will continue in the next Inner Cabinet and Cabinet sessions.

### Peres Discusses Deportation, Peace, Gaza Plan

*TA302112 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by moderator Yoram Ronen and Yig'al Goren on the "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Good evening. The fire that raged in the territories brought about a cease-fire between the Alignment and the Likud. Now that calm has been restored in the territories this week, this cease-fire has in fact ended. Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will be the person who will lead the Alignment's offensive until the elections, which will probably focus on the future of the territories. Good evening to you Mr Peres and to my colleague, Yig'al Goren.

Mr Peres, harsh criticism was leveled overseas this week, especially at our decision to deport Arab instigators from the territories. Prime Minister Shamir said yesterday

that we thank the United States for its good advice, but that we will be the ones to decide if and when to deport. Do you share the prime minister's opinion?

[Peres] First of all, allow me to say that I do not know what was the cause of this overseas storm. We have not deported a single person yet. For the time being the argument is over rumors. Also, all expressions about mass deportations have no foothold in reality.

[Ronen] A decision has been made on deportations, though.

[Peres] No, I do not know whether one has been made. Deportations are one of the means at our disposal for calming down a stormy situation. We have done this in the past, and if necessary we will definitely do so in the future too. There will never be mass deportations. To the best of my knowledge there is no intention to carry out mass deportations. The United States can comment on this, but we are the ones who have to decide, and we will decide.

[Goren] Mr Peres, criticism in Israel and abroad also relates to the mass trials currently under way, to the fact that many children or youths are involved in trials that are conducted as if on a production-line basis. As the foreign minister, who is responsible for Israel's public relations? How do you explain these events?

[Peres] This morning I received quite a number of telegrams claiming that we, as it were, are trying children under the age of 14. I checked this matter out with the defense minister who in turn checked with his people. The result was that this is totally baseless. The defendants do not include anybody under the age of 14. I also know that the defense minister and the entire legal system take care that the trials are conducted properly. Trust is placed in Israel's legal system. This trust is precious to us and we do not want to lose it. [passage omitted]

[Goren] Mr Peres, the main question now concerns the future of the peace process. As is known, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is continuing with his opposition to the international conference. The question that many then ask today is how do you, under the present circumstances, intend to continue to lead the process? Do you intend to wait for almost a whole year, until elections take place, or is there room for some action, for efforts to move the process forward?

[Peres] I will do everything I can every day to continue with the peace process. I will not wait for a year or a single week. A Knesset decision in favor of an international conference has been made. Also, there is no government decision banning an international conference. On the contrary. There is a Cabinet decision dating back to 1977, to Begin's government, that supports an international conference. We now have to decide for ourselves. We can decide on anything but maintaining the status quo. Why? Because there is a natural Arab reproduction that is twice as much as ours. Today, of 100 children born between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean, 51 are Arab and 51 [number as heard] are Jewish and there is no stopping this process at all. The demographic changes are more significant than all the geographical changes that have taken place in the past.

Let us turn to relations between the two peoples. Let me be very clear here. I said that 1987 will be the year of peace. In 1987 there was a breakthrough—unprecedented since 1977, when Al-Sadat arrived in Jerusalem—but there was also a terrible halt to the process, and from within. In 1987 it became clear that we have a partner; not the PLO, but Jordan. It transpired that Jordan is prepared for direct negotiations after an international opening. It transpired that the international opening will not have the power to impose or intervene in a solution. These are three elements that had never existed before. The process of halting this then started among us.

[Ronen] Excuse me for a moment, Mr Peres. You are talking about all those things which are attributed to the agreement achieved between you and King Husayn in London in April 1987. Prime Minister Shamir, however, says he does not recognize this agreement at all, that the government has not discussed it at all—nor will it—that an international conference is off the agenda to begin with.

[Peres] I hear Yoram here, not Shamir...

[Ronen interrupts] Shamir said this in the Knesset.

[Peres] He did not say what you said. He was more cautious, in my opinion. I do not know what you said or what Mr Shamir said, but I do know that we received a document from the United States, a document the United States terms the London document. I will not now enter the aspect of how it was achieved. It is not all that important, either. This document contains details as to how the international conference will proceed, what its powers, framework, and scope are, what is allowed and what is forbidden. The United States formally informed us that Jordan accepts these provisions, exactly as they were laid down on paper. A letter was later written to Mr Shultz, containing 19 claims regarding this document. Mr Shultz provided 19 detailed replies, explaining that the United States goes hand in hand with Israel on all these 19 points. One of the points is that this conference can neither impose a solution nor cancel an agreement, and that if it tries to do so the United States will quit the conference together with Israel. All of this is written, all of this exists, and Mr Shamir knows of this.

[Goren] Mr Peres, we have already heard all of this from you on previous occasions. Let me ask you again: How do you intend to lead the political process from the

present state of affairs, in view of recent events? Or, are you saying: I have no choice. I now have to wait another 11 months, until the elections, and only then try again?

[Peres] Look, Yig'al, first of all I do not want to deny that there are difficulties along the road. It would not be right. For instance, I see a retreat in the Soviet stance. In my opinion, the situation prior to Gorbachev's arrival in Washington was easier than now.

I will give you an example as to how work is done, what I intend to do. Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti visited Israel. He asked me what, in my opinion, was the obstacle for the opening of negotiations today. I told him it was the Soviet Union's stance, the fact that it has not renewed relations and does not release Jews. You know, Mr Andreotti in Italy has repeated this point for 3 days, appealing to the USSR to renew relations with Israel, to open its gates to the emigration of Jews. Andreotti understood matters, and I greatly appreciate this.

[Goren] What has caused the worsening in the Soviet stance?

[Peres] In my opinion there were two or three elements causing this. First, the USSR may not be in need of the sympathy of Jewish public opinion. Gorbachev arrived in Washington. He was awake for 55 hours there, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES. Of these 55 hours, he addressed the media for 33. In the remaining 22 hours he was engaged in talks. This is quite a good distribution of hours. He emerged from this a victor. He no longer needs what we might have thought he would need. Second, he sees that next year, when the United States, let us say, will not exist so much in the arena, he will have a golden opportunity to conduct events in the Middle East arena. Therefore, next year the USSR wants to entrench itself further among the Arabs. Now I thought that the summit might have created the opportunity to open the negotiations. There will be another summit...

[Ronen interrupts] Was it intended to invite Husayn and Al-Asad to the summit?

[Goren] Yes, what was the idea?

[Peres] The idea was perhaps...[changes thought] After all, we need an international opening. We did have a Geneva conference in the past. It had a U.S. chairman and a Soviet one, and the Syrians, the Jordanians, the Egyptians, and Israelis were invited to it. The Israelis, Egyptians, and Jordanians did arrive and even arranged all the tables and all other matters. Such a reopening may perhaps be repeated.

[Goren] Is that what you wanted to do in Washington in the course of the last summit?

[Peres] I do not want to say I wanted or did not want to. I do not want to speak for myself only. I thought the opportunity for this was created, though.

[Goren] Why did it not succeed then?

[Peres] I do not want to enter into reasons at the moment. [passage omitted]

[Goren] Mr Peres, you recently raised the idea of demilitarizing the Gaza Strip. This notion encountered very sharp opposition. Perhaps this is the opportunity to explain to us exactly what you had in mind.

[Peres] First of all, I did not raise the idea of demilitarizing the Gaza Strip. Rather, an excerpt of my remarks to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on this issue was leaked.

I would like to describe two scenarios, the way I see them: Some 600,000 Arabs, half of them in refugee camps, live in an area of 360 square km, 10 km in length by 30-35 km in width. Their number has doubled since 1956. There will be 1 million people there in 12 years and the population density will exceed that of Hong Kong—and we know that crowded conditions beget crime. These people do not have sufficient water, have hardly any land, do not have passports, and cannot make a living.

What do those people, the prime minister for example, mean when they say that Gaza is an inseparable part of Eretz Yisra'el? That the 1 million inhabitants who will be there in 12 years or the current 600,000 are an inseparable part of Israel? Is that the gift they want to give to Israel?

[Goren] What do you propose?

[Peres] My proposal is based partly on what I know; partly it is my own suggestion. What I know is that Jordan is prepared to conduct negotiations on the future of Gaza.

[Ronen] And also to take it under its rule?

[Peres] And also to take it under its rule and administration.

[Goren] Without any conditions?

[Peres] What do you mean without any conditions? Do you think it wants it as a dowry?

[Goren] As part of a package deal or separately?

[Peres] Jordan definitely wants to discuss everything, including the territories. I have never said that Jordan is prepared to start out with this issue. Incidentally, the one that wants to start out with this issue is the PLO, albeit without an international conference—no problem about it. Generally speaking, the PLO is the most accommodating element around—this is a manner of speaking, let nobody misquote me tomorrow.

What I suggest is the following: Jordan is prepared to conduct negotiations on the future of Gaza. I ask myself: What do I prefer? That 1 million inhabitants in 12 years from now—incidentally, the negotiations will take a long time—should carry Jordanian passports or Israeli ones? That Jordanian policemen or Israeli ones should deal with the PLO? Incidentally, my argument is that Jordan is better prepared than Israel to deal with the PLO. Past experience, logic, and the constitution [as heard] bear proof of that. Why should our soldiers sit in the midst of this densely populated area and carry out police tasks?

When I spoke about demilitarization I meant the following: That an Arab army should not enter Gaza; likewise, I am opposed to having an Arab army cross the Jordan River. There is a 2-km wide cordon sanitaire between us and Egypt on the southern border, our forces are stationed on the northern border, and along the land border in the east and they patrol the sea; a Piper Cub can oversee our airspace, and we can see, listen, and hear.

[Goren] Let me ask you a technical question. Are you prepared to go for the issue of demilitarization even before negotiations with Jordan or only as part of a comprehensive deal?

[Peres] I am prepared to do it even before negotiations. If there is an agreement on autonomy, on policing by Jordan, and, say, even about a Jordanian port—will this hurt us? There will just be another economic interest.

Now you choose between the two scenarios: adding to Israel 1 million Arabs—half of them refugees with no passports living in terribly crowded conditions and becoming increasingly despairing while the entire world looks on—or conducting negotiations to solve the problem. The choice between the two is clear to me, and that is what I propose. [passage omitted]

### Purpose of Deportation Policy Questioned

*TA310901 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Dec 87 p 8*

[Editorial: "A Question of Purpose"]

[Text] Apart from Abu Nidal, Israel's bloodiest terrorist enemy is without a doubt Ahmad Jibril, head of the Syrian-sponsored Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command. It must take self-restraint and moral commitment of the highest order to treat chieftain Jibril and his gang, for all their unspeakable crimes, as deserving the protection of any civilized legal system.

For its own pressing reasons, however, Israel has in the past had occasion to make deals with Jibril. On April 1, 1985, the Inner Cabinet endorsed a prisoner swap with the PFLP-GC, under which 1,150 jailed terrorists, most of them its own members, were released for three IDF soldiers seized by the Jibrilites during the war in Lebanon. It did so knowing that the list of terrorists to be freed included a number of notorious murderers.

One of Jibril's conditions was also that over 600 of the terrorists who were let go should be allowed to stay on in the territories. Acceptance of that demand, too, was considered worth securing the liberation of the three Israeli soldiers.

Israeli public opinion was sharply divided over the deal, for obvious reasons. The suggestion was made that Israel, a civilized country, should not honour such an agreement with a bunch of blackmailing barbarians. At the very least, it was proposed, Israel ought to either deport all the freed terrorists who had opted for staying on, or to slap tough jail sentences on them again for the slightest offence. The government, for presumably good reasons, rejected any such advice.

That might have been a mistake. Certainly the prisoner swap did not deter Jibril from pressing on with his terrorist anti-Israel campaign. The latest PFLP-GC exploit, in Galilee, was carried out on what has become known as the "hang-glider night," three weeks ago , and it helped spark the disorders in Gaza which promptly spread into Judaea and Samaria and even spilled over into Israel proper.

Had the government decided to strike back at the time by detaining, or for that matter deporting, the major released criminals among the benefactors of the Jibril prisoner exchange, it would probably have encountered little dissent. Only now, when the riots have, however briefly, died down, the idea of deportation is apparently to be acted upon.

It is not to be a mass expulsion, and even the Americans might find it hard to object. But a small number of local Palestinian "militants," with ties to the terrorist organizations, are apparently to be deported as a token of Israel's determination to punish the riot organizers and to deter the recurrence of disturbances; and at least five of them are to be from among the Jibril group.

But what purpose will it serve? It was plainly not the intended deportees who whipped up the riots in the territories, but local firebrands fuelled by widespread popular discontent. The defence authorities and the government would only be kidding themselves, therefore, if they expect this step to promote tranquillity in the territories.

### Poll Compares Israeli Arab, Palestinian Views

*TA250802 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Dec 87 pp 1, 17*

[Report by Elaine Ruth Fletcher]

[Text] As many as one-third of young Israeli and Palestinian men favour extremist solutions of the Arab-Israeli conflict involving population "transfers" and reject any

territorial compromise, according to a study published today by two prominent sociologists. Israeli annexation of the territories and a "transfer" of Arabs to elsewhere in the Middle East was the "most desirable" solution among 30 per cent of the Jews and "acceptable" to 42 per cent in the study conducted by Efrayim Yucktman-Ya'ar of Tel Aviv University and Mikha'el 'Inbar of Hebrew University.

Thirty-five per cent of the West Bankers questioned favour replacing Israel with a Palestinian state and expelling the Jewish population. Some 53 per cent of the Palestinians said such a solution would be "acceptable," along with 23 per cent of Israeli Arabs. The study, however, also indicates that a majority of West Bank Palestinians would accept a Palestinian state beside Israel, even though this solution would not be their "ideal." In contrast, no solution mustered a majority among the deeply divided Israeli Jewish population, even as part of a compromise.

Israeli Arabs share views on the Palestinian question more akin to their Palestinian brethren in the West Bank than to Israeli Jews, the study also shows. But the Israeli Arabs are generally more moderate—for instance, only 11 per cent would support a Palestinian state that expelled its Jewish residents. And as many as 78 per cent of Israeli Arabs would consider a Palestinian state beside Israel "acceptable," compared with only 54 per cent of the Palestinians. Some 2,000 people were polled in the research and the findings reflect the political views of urban men under the age of 35, said Ya'ar. Further sampling inside Israel proper indicated that the young males were only slightly more extreme politically than the wider population.

Ya'ar said the study was the first to compare directly the views of Israeli Jews and Arabs, and Palestinians. While the study revealed a strong Israel-Arab identification with the Palestinian issue—"at the same time, the Israeli Arabs identify themselves as Israelis."

Regarding "acceptable" solutions, a majority or near-majority of Palestinians said they could support any solution involving an independent Palestinian state. Those solutions included: 64 per cent for a binational democratic state; 54 per cent for a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza; and 45 per cent for a Palestinian state with borders modified to account for Israel's security needs. Only 19 per cent of the Palestinian respondents said they would accept a confederation with Jordan. Palestinian autonomy proposals gained support from only 9 per cent.

Israeli Jews were much more deeply split. The idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation on the West Bank, with borders modified to allow for Israel's security needs, was viewed as "acceptable" by 38 per cent, the largest group to cluster around any one proposal. Nineteen per cent accepted the notion of a Palestinian "autonomy" plan; 24 per cent said the status quo was acceptable and 33 per cent said a "greater Israel" was acceptable. Between eight and 10 per cent of Jews questioned accepted proposals for a binational state, a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza, or a Palestinian state with modified borders—the three solutions most acceptable to West Bank Palestinians.

Among Israeli Arabs, 60 per cent said a binational state would be "acceptable." But 34 per cent also found a Palestinian autonomy plan acceptable. And 23 per cent said they could accept a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation inside the pre-1967 boundaries.

### Prince Hasan Returns From Visit to Turkey

*JN301704 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Amman—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan returned to the homeland this evening after a short working visit to Turkey. During his trip, he met with the Turkish president, His Excellency Kenan Evren, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, and a number of other Turkish officials.

His highness the crown prince conveyed a verbal message to the Turkish president from his brother, His Majesty King Husayn. The message contains greetings for the Turkish president and deals with the results and implications of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman on 8 November.

The meeting included a comprehensive review of the issues currently facing the Islamic nation, foremost of which are the Palestine question and the Arabian Gulf war. In reference to these two subjects, the Turkish president stressed his country's support for Jordanian policy under His Majesty King Husayn. That policy seeks to bring peace to the Middle East through an international conference attended by all the disputing countries and the five permanent members of the Security Council. His excellency also voiced support for ongoing efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, noting that the situation in the Arabian Gulf threatens the entire region.

#### Further Reportage

For reportage on the visit to Turkey by Crown Prince Hasan, including his arrival statement and contacts with Turkish leaders, see the Turkey section of the 30 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

### Al-Rifa'i Receives Lebanon's Walid Junblatt

*JN291844 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Dec 87 p 1*

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Walid Junblatt, Lebanon's minister of public works, transport, and tourism, in his office yesterday afternoon.

### Jerusalem Electric Company Franchise Extended

*JN281119 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Dec 87 pp 1, 24*

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Marwan Dudin, the minister of occupied territories, has announced that an agreement was signed a few days ago between the Jordanian Ministry of Energy and the Jerusalem Electric Co. extending the company's franchise for 60 years.

Dudin explained that the basic agreement signed with the Jordanian Government is still valid in accordance with international laws and norms. However, he noted, we are extending the franchise to frustrate any illegitimate actions against the company by the Israeli occupation authorities, especially after the occupation forces virtually dissolved the firm when the Knesset issued its power distribution law.

The government has referred the draft law approving the agreement between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Jerusalem Electric Shareholding Co., Ltd., on extending the franchise to the House of Representatives for ratification.

The draft law affirms the electric company's right to supply the public with power in the franchise area designated by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in line with the franchise agreement endorsed by Law No 37 of 1963.

As the firm is entitled to continue exercising the rights granted it under the franchise, and in accordance with international law and agreements—the actions of the occupation forces in the West Bank notwithstanding—to maintain the Arab nature of the company, and to confirm its legal and legitimate rights, a law has been drafted stipulating that the accord between the two parties, as well as the supplement to that law, are sound and effective for all purposes.

### Stipends Set for Families of Uprising 'Martyrs'

*JN241507 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Dec 87*

[Text] Amman—On the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn, may God preserve him, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Holy Places, and Religious Trusts, has decided to allocate monthly stipends for the families of the martyrs of the blessed uprising in the occupied Arab territories. This is part of the Kingdom's policy, which seeks to support the determination of our kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories to remain on the sacred soil of their homeland. It also serves to consolidate the close ties of brotherhood binding the people of this steadfast country with its East and West Banks and to entrench our struggling kinfolk in Holy Jerusalem.

The ministry has ordered the appropriate organizations to make the necessary arrangements to implement the royal instructions.

### Paper Criticizes Arab 'Neutrality' on Gulf War

*JN281031 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Dec 87 p 19*

[The "Issue and Option" column: "The Gulf War and Arab Neutrality" by Salamah 'Akkur]

[Text] Some Arabs these days are trying to shirk their responsibility toward the Iraq-Iran war and their role in fomenting, fanning, and continuing the conflict to this day.

No honorable Arab wants that destructive war to go on, and many honorable Arabs opposed it from the start.

However, now that the conflict has been raging for more than 7 years, it is more important to make every effort to stop it. If any Arab state shirks its responsibility, that hardly helps end the war, contain it, or prevent it from spreading. Any attempt by any Arab country to shirk its responsibility will not keep it from the flames of the war or the consequences of its continuation.

Therefore, we say that uniting the efforts of the Arabs without exception and employing all their abilities and resources to end the conflict is the only guarantee, indeed the only option, to avert the threat it poses.

Declarations of neutrality by any Arab party, made in a bid to appease or placate Iran, will achieve nothing. On the contrary, they will tempt Iran to continue its extortion and, if possible, to escalate its hostile campaign against that party.

Iran will simply take the retreat or complacency of any Arab state as a sign of fear. That, in turn, will prompt Iran to launch additional hostile campaigns, political or otherwise, against it.

Of course, we are not calling for hostility toward Iran or involvement in the war against it. However, there can be no neutrality toward that destructive conflict under any circumstances.

That crazy war concerns everyone, and the search to end it is definitely the responsibility of us all.

## Syrian Stand on War 'Compatible' With Summit

*JN301101 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic*
*30 Dec 87 p 21*

[The "Arab Opinion" column: "Complementary Factors for Ending the Iraq-Iran War" by the Arab affairs editor]

[Text] Syria's latest position on the Iraq-Iran war, enunciated at the GCC summit in Riyadh, may be the clearest. The entire world, including the Arab world and the Gulf region in particular, are concerned about the war. The Syrian stand centers on the importance of ending the conflict through dialogue and contacts with Iran. It also highlights the need to keep diplomatic channels between the Arab states and Iran open and to come up with a common Arab strategy based on the fact that Iran is a friendly state, not a hostile one. The position reflects Syria's readiness to strengthen efforts to end the war on this basis.

The importance of Syria's stand lies in its emphasis on ending the war, and not just preventing its spread. Syria's position is compatible with the declaration and spirit of the Amman summit, which stressed the great need to end the conflict.

Another important element in the Syrian position is the show of willingness to contribute to work designed to end the war. The Arabs have often hoped that Damascus would undertake such efforts in light of its relations with Tehran and its great importance to Iran.

This positive stand does not touch on a number of questions related to ending the war. It may be very useful to refer to those issues in intensifying efforts to stop the conflict.

The first point is Resolution 598, on which there is international agreement. It is also supported by Arab and international public opinion. Iran, however, has avoided taking a clear stand so as to cover up its actual rejection of the resolution.

The second point is to expedite the normalization and development of Syrian-Iraqi relations. The foundation for the resumption of these ties was laid at the Amman summit. It will be hard to play an effective role in ending the war without some progress in Syrian-Iraqi relations.

The third point is that dealing with Iran as a friendly country is in principle a gain for the Arabs and strengthens the front supporting the Arabs against the Israeli enemy. However, the continuation of the war and Iran's insistence on this deprives the Arabs of Iran's friendship.

These three things are complementary factors in any position designed to end the war, as they are more than mere details. Their importance is in no way diminished by Syria's clear stand on ending the war—a stand we should welcome. Syria's position is compatible with the Arab and international consensus and with its own role in ending any peripheral disputes in order to concentrate all Arab efforts on the Israeli enemy.

## Further Reports on Helicopter Hijacking

### Army Command Issues Statement

*NC301721 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Army Command's Guidance Department on 30 December]

[Text] Lieutenant pilot Majid Karami, assisted by copilot Roger Hile, boarded a Gazelle helicopter at Adma Air Base this morning on a training mission. After completing the mission, the pilot landed at the municipal playground in Juniyah instead of at the Adma Air Base. He then asked his copilot to leave the aircraft so that he could carry out a mission by himself. The pilot subsequently took off for a certain destination in the Al-Shuf area.

The Army Command is currently gathering information on the circumstances of this incident, and will adopt the necessary measures accordingly.

### More on Defection

*NC301912 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Excerpts] In an operation which is the first of its kind in Lebanon, officer pilot Majid Karami defected with a Lebanese Air Force helicopter from Adma Air Base to the Al-Shuf area this morning. [passage omitted]

Contacts are continuing between the Army Command, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and the prime minister to retrieve the helicopter with which Majid Karami, a Druze from 'Ayn Zhalta town, defected from Adma base. He flew over the sea and western Al-Shahhar from 0930 to 1100 this morning. During the trip, the helicopter landed at the municipal playground in Juniyah, where the defecting officer asked his assistant to land so that he could carry out a mission alone. Karami said that he would go to the Army Command in Al-Yarzah.

It has been learned that when Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran was informed about the operation, he gave an order to the Air Force to reconnoitor the area where the stolen helicopter had been parked and to strike it.

Prime Minister al-Huss condemned this action when informed about the operation. The Syrian forces command in Lebanon was one of the parties informed about the theft of the helicopter.

According to available reports, officer Majid Karami had recently moved his family from Tripoli, where it had been residing since the outbreak of the incidents in Lebanon, to the Al-Shuf. This raises a question about this measure. Karami continued to serve as officer in the Air Force throughout this period.

Karami flew the helicopter accompanied by Lieutenant Ilyas al-Hilu and a technician. Half an hour after the start of the flight, Karami landed the plane at the municipal playground in Juniyah. He told his two aides that he was needed for a mission at the Al-Yarzah command. The tehnician insisted on staying aboard the helicopter, pointing out that the relevant instructions do not permit him to leave. Officer Karami insisted that the technician get off the helicopter, using the pretext that he was going to transport four persons from Al-Yarzah, leaving no room for the technician. Upon hearing this, the technician landed the helicopter, after which Karami took off to fly over the sea and then in the direction of Al-Shahhar, Al-Jiyah, and then Al-Shuf.

Observers are wondering why the hijacked helicopter was not fired at although it flew deep in the Al-Shuf area. The observers recalled the incident of the training plane which had flown over 'Alayh by mistake. The socialists fired at it, downing it and killing an officer of the Al-'Aqiqi family. The observers are asking whether today's operation was preplanned.

### Hamadah Praises Landing

*NC302023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Commenting on the initiative of pilot officer Majid Karami, former Minister Marwan Hamadah said the initiative is a revolution of conscience against the killers of martyr Prime Minister Rashid Karami. He added that the transfer of the helicopter from the base of crimes in Adma to the nationalist areas is of significant importance. He went on to ask, how could officer Karami live with the killers of Prime Minister Karami who are still at large amid a treacherous official silence?

Former Minister Hamadah added that today's incident between Adma and Al-Shuf further expresses the resentment of the free officers over hegemony, division, and Zionization.

Hamadah contacted Minister Junblatt, who is currently in Amman, during which they assessed the issue of the helicopter as well as its meaning and results.

### Prompts Fears of PSP Campaign

*NC310804 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Excerpts] Attention is being focused on the matter of the army helicopter which was hijacked to Al-Shuf, not only because of the circumstances of the incident itself, but also with regard to the political results and the objectives of the operation. These objectives have not become totally clear yet. [passage omitted]

PSP official Marwan Hamadah has telephoned Minister Walid Junblatt, who is currently in Amman, and discussed the helicopter incident with him. It has been learned that during the conversation Junblatt asserted

that the return of the helicopter is not under consideration at all. He urged that Lieutenant Majid Karami be carefully protected, and asked Hamadah to prepare the statement which Karami will read at a press conference later today. [passage omitted]

In another development, according to a security report, PSP gunmen broke into an air base in West Beirut last night and seized Lt Karami's car. He had parked it at the base before leaving for Adma Air Base with one of his colleagues. The gunmen later took the car to the mountain area. It has been learned that the Army Command has informed the Syrian forces of this incident and has placed the Army on alert.

The AL-BAYRAQ newspaper quotes informed sources as expressing fears that the theft of the army helicopter is part of a plan to carry out military operations against the army establishment and army positions, and against some official institutions in the liberated areas. The paper notes that the army command has placed the Air Force on alert to monitor any moves by the hijacked helicopter and PSP gunmen.

### Israel Urges Helicopter's Return

*NC310946 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that intensive contacts have been held in the past few hours between Washington, Tel Aviv, and Amman, where Minister Walid Junblatt is at present. The Israelis have stressed that the hijacked helicopter should be turned over to the Lebanese Army as soon as possible. The report adds that this Israeli view arises from a fear that Palestinian extremists might use the helicopter to launch a suicide operation against Israel. Israeli fears also stem from the fact that Libya recently transferred large sums of money to the Abu Nidal group and the PSP. The Palestinians might use the money to acquire the hijacked helicopter.

The Voice of Lebanon has also learned that after the aircraft was hijacked a state of high alert was declared in order to defend Israeli airspace.

### Eastern Areas' Airspace Closed

*NC311216 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] The AL-NAHAR newspaper quotes Lebanese Forces sources as saying that the forces have informed all embassies and other parties which use the airspace above the eastern areas that this airspace has been closed to helicopters unless a permit is obtained in advance. This decision was made to guard against the possible use of the hijacked helicopter in military actions against targets in the liberated areas.

### Fatah Contacts Official on Release of 2 Girls

*NC311108 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] The Fatah Revolutionary Council today asked Lucien Bitterlin, chairman of the Franco-Arab Friendship Society, for help in contacting the father of French girls Virginie and Marie-Laure, who Fatah intends to release, and to ensure a secure place to which the girls may be taken before they return to France.

The request came in a message which was handed to a foreign news agency in Beirut today.

It is known that the Fatah Revolutionary Council declared a few days ago that it will release the two girls, who were among the eight passengers Fatah detained in November when it attacked the boat "Silco" off the coast of occupied Palestine.

### Further on Contacts

*LD311043 Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Since this morning, Lucien Bitterlin, president of the Franco-Arab Solidarity Association, has been the key personality in the release of Virginie and Marie-Laure, who are being held by the Abu Nidal group. The Fatah Revolutionary Council has just asked him, in a letter addressed to him and authenticated by a color photograph of the two little girls sent to a western news agency in Beirut, to play a role in their release. The Abu Nidal group is asking Lucien Bitterlin to make contact with the father of the two children, Pascal Betille, and to cooperate with the Palestinian organization to ensure the transportation of Virginie and Marie-Laure to a safe place before their departure for France.

### 'Bargain' To Release FRG Hostage Reported

*JN301823 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1742 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] The Lebanese magazine AL-SHIRA' believes that a bargain is being negotiated between the captors of FRG hostage Rudolf Cordes and the Bonn Government. According to this bargain, Cordes will be released in return for a German pledge to release Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, who was accused of hijacking a U.S. Boeing airplane to Beirut airport in 1985, and who is currently jailed in the FRG.

Thus far there has been no comment from Bonn on the Lebanese magazine's report.

### IRA Seeks Release of Beirut Kidnap Victim

*LD310538 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0514 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Senior officials of the IRA's political wing have made a secret trip to Beirut to try to secure the release of kidnapped Belfast schoolteacher Mr Brian Keenan.

The two Sinn Fein members are now back in Belfast and one of them, Mr Joe Austin, said last night that he talked to some of the groups controlling Beirut and was hopeful that the Sinn Fein intervention would eventually lead to Mr Keenan's release.

"What we received was an undertaking from the largest of the groups in Beirut that they would endeavour to secure Brian Keenan's release, though they did point out that this may dictate a second and perhaps third trip to West Beirut," he added.

He did not know if that group was holding Mr Keenan. "But I believe they are sufficiently influential to ultimately secure Brian Keenan's release."

Mr Keenan, 35, of Ormeau Road, Belfast, an English language teacher at the American University of Beirut, was kidnapped on April 11, 1986. No group has claimed responsibility.

A member of the Protestant Keenan family said they knew nothing of the Sinn Fein visit and had not asked for their intervention.

### Birri Says 'Reception' of Deportees Rejected

*NC301533 Beirut Domestic Service in English*
*1515 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri affirmed today that he who adheres to the present Lebanese regime is the one who supports the hegemony of the number, which is for the interest of the Muslims and the Shi'ites, noting that he who calls for the cancellation of the regime is the one who does not want the situation to continue. Minister Birri revealed that the nationalist and the Palestinian forces had agreed on rejecting reception of those deported from the occupied territory, pointing out that all revolutionaries should remain in their real field position.

### Israelis, SLA Adopt 'Special' Military Measures

*NC301855 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
*1715 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] According to security information available to the Voice of Lebanon, the Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army have adopted special military measures, fortified their positions, and brought additional vehicles and soldiers to the security belt area.

These steps, the reports say, come in the wake of warnings issued by more than one Palestinian organization that they will escalate the acts of violence in the West Bank and Gaza sector, particularly on the eve of the new year. These measures also follow contacts, which had been monitored, between Yasir 'Arafat, through his aides in the south, and Hizballah during the second half of this month. These contacts dealt with coordinating wide-scale military operations in the security belt area, to take place simultaneously with the creation of incidents and disturbances inside Israel.

### 1 Killed, 3 wounded in Amal-Israeli Clash

*NC301310 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
*1215 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] The Amal Movement has reported that one of its groups in the south clashed with an Israeli patrol on the Arnun-al-Qal'ah Road last night. Isma'il Husayn, a member of the Amal Movement was killed in the clash. Three others—Kamil Shihadah, 'Ala' al-Din, Qurrah 'Ali, and Kamal Qurrah 'Ali—were wounded. The last-named was captured by the Israeli patrol.

### Resistance Attacks Israeli, Lahd Forces

*NC310843 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
*0530 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Excerpts] According to reports from Tyre, resistance fighters using rockets and machineguns have attacked a joint Israeli-Lahd militia motorized patrol on the Al-Qantarah-al-Tayyibah Road. A helicopter was seen evacuating casualties.

Security sources have reported that resistance fighters attacked upper Galilee with Grad rockets on Monday night. Earlier, Katyushas were fired at Misgav'am settlement. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, it has been reported that the Israelis and their militia in the occupied areas are on maximum alert. According to reports from Al-Nabatiyah, Israeli forces surrounded the town of Yuhmur yesterday. They then stormed the town and searched houses there.

Enemy forces have also shelled the areas facing them on the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, as well as nearby fields. The occupation forces have also shelled the town of Haddathah and other villages in western Al-Biqa'.

In another development, the PNSF has declared that Palestinian withdrawal from the villages east of Sidon is a necessary and basic step if the file on the camps war, its consequences, and effects is to be closed.

### Al-Jumayyil Cited on New Government, Support

*NC310713 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
*0530 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Several deputies have quoted President al-Jumayyil as saying that no new government will be formed before the next president assumes his constitutional powers. Al-Jumayyil is reported to have added: Should an unexpected event take place, a transitional government would be formed to see the elections through and to facilitate the constitutional transfer of power. President al-Jumayyil emphasized that international support for Lebanon is very good. He revealed that he has

received messages from the Soviet and U.S. leaders, conveyed to him by Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha and U.S. Envoy John Kelly. The messages affirm the two countries' support for Lebanese legitimacy and the unity of Lebanon.

**Al-Jumayyil Receives Message From CSSR Leader**
*NC301459 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] The Czechoslovak charge d'affaires in Lebanon today delivered to Foreign Ministry Secretary General Fu'ad al-Turk a message from the CSSR president for President al-Jumayyil. The contents of the message have not been disclosed.

**Al-Huss, Iranian Envoy on Palestinians**
*LD301812 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Beirut, Dec. 30, IRNA—The Palestinian Muslims' uprising against the Zionists as well as resistance against the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime were discussed in a meeting between Iran's ambassador in Beirut Ahmad Dastmalchian and Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss of Lebanon, here Wednesday.

Views were also exchanged on various issues of the region as well as current developments inside Lebanon.

Dastamlchian told IRNA after the meeting that the two sides conferred on attempts made by the Zionists to expel Palestinian mujahideen from the usurped lands.

There is a possibility the Zionists may expel a group of Palestinians to Lebanon, he added noting that emphasis was placed on the need to resist this criminal plot and to stress that Palestinians must not desert their own lands.

The Lebanese premier, endorsing this stance announced readiness to take any suitable action for preventing such conspiracies, he added.

Dastmalchian described the growing struggles of southern Lebanon's Muslims against the Zionists as the major topic in his talks with Al-Huss.

**Soviet Envoy Meets Al-Huss, Makes Statement**
*NC311113 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has received Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha. They discussed the local situation and the Soviet stand on local and regional developments.

The Soviet ambassador made a statement in which he said: We discussed international issues within the framework of bilateral relations. Lebanon urgently needs a solution and an end to the tragedies from which the people are suffering. As I have often said, the Lebanese, before all others, hold the key to a solution. A settlement can be achieved if they reach agreement on their internal affairs as well as on the Israeli issue, good neighborly relations, and good relations with Syria.

**Invitation to Arab League Meeting Received**
*NC301409 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has received an official invitation for Lebanon to attend an Arab League council meeting. The Libyan Jamahiriyah has called for the meeting to be held so that the incidents in the West Bank and Gaza may be discussed.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk telephoned Ambassador Sulayman Farah, the Lebanese delegate to the Arab League, this afternoon to consult with him about the invitation. He asked him to inform the Foreign Ministry of the names of the countries which will attend the meeting so that the Lebanese response to the invitation may be determined.

**9 February Organization Claims Attacks**
*NC310818 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0645 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has announced that it carried out two military operations against the Syrians in Tripoli at dawn today. In the first operation, the unit attacked a Syrian occupation position in Tripoli port at 0200 today, which is a Syrian mobilization point. The unit said that it used machineguns in the attack and caused an unspecified number of casualties among the Syrians. The second operation took place at 0245. Gunmen attacked a Syrian checkpoint at the railroad junction near Al-Mina' gate in Tripoli, using RPG-7's and automatic weapons in the attack. Each clash lasted between 10 and 15 minutes.

**Fadlallah Raises Issue of Islamic State**
*NC281828 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Dec 87*

[Text] Political and diplomatic circles have taken note of scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah's persistence in recent days in raising the issue of an Islamic Republic in Lebanon. In referring again to the issue today, Fadlallah attacked those Muslims who make frequent statements to the effect that they want neither an Islamic state nor an Islamic Republic in Lebanon, but seek coexistence instead, so as not to create a complex among the Christians. We have excluded Islam as an effective and challenging factor in the arena of struggle as a result of this, Fadlallah asserted. However, he added: Islam is forbidden from entering the Lebanese political arena to draw up a political program and propose it as a substitute for reality. [sentence as heard] He expressed his belief that a violent and very powerful conflict will take place between Islam on the one hand, and the Marxists and others on the other.

### Official Responds to Call

*NC292142 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Dec 87*

[Text] Tawfiq al-Hindi, political adviser to the Lebanese Forces commander, has called for an official Islamic stand affirming that Lebanon enjoys a unique situation and that Muslims do not intend to establish an Islamic Republic in Lebanon. He stressed that such a stand is a necessary step on the road leading to dialogue and accord.

Al-Hindi responded to the statements made by Minister Nabih Birri, Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and other Islamic figures on the issue of demographic changes in Lebanon which dictate that the president of the republic should not be a Christian, and particularly not a Maronite. He said: The least that can be said about this is that it is illogical. It contradicts their claims that they are opposed to partition and are committed to national unity. This is in contrast with their stand calling for the rejection of what they term odious sectarianism.

### AL-RA'Y on Hizballah's 'New Military Command'

*JN270928 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Dec 87 p 24*

[Text] Reliable sources in West Beirut have told AL-RA'Y that Hizballah, which has prominently contributed to cultural activities in West Beirut this year—the latest manifestation being the Iranian film festival at the Monte Carlo Theater in the western part of the Lebanese capital—now has a new military command since 'Aql Hamiyah and 'Imad Mughaniyah joined it. 'Aql Hamiyah was the principal military official in the Amal Movement before he was dismissed approximately 1 month ago. 'Imad Mughaniyah, who has also been dismissed from the Amal Movement, is reported to be personally holding several of the foreign hostages in Lebanon, in addition to some Lebanese who had given information to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The sources affirm that this new command will bring about a comprehensive change in the nature of Hizballah's military actions in the future. That's why $90 million has been earmarked for this change, which has been listed under the slogan of "military enhancement" [quotation marks as published], that is, the consolidation of Hizballah's nerve center with all the new strength it needs.

### 'Islamic Movement' Nominates Fadlallah

*NC310933 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 30 Dec 87 p 4*

[Unattributed report: "'The Islamic Movement' Renews the Nomination of Ulema for President of the 'Islamic Republic'"]

[Text] The "Islamic Movement" has renewed its call for the election of a president for "the Islamic Republic in Lebanon." According to leaflets distributed by the movement yesterday, "The president represents all the people. Therefore, let all the people elect the president. The Islamic Movement nominates Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din (deputy chairman of the Shi'ite Higher Islamic Council); Sadiq al- Musawi; and Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban (leader of the Islamic Unification Movement), for president of the republic in Lebanon."

### Embassy in Sudan Closes To Save Expenses

*NC261557 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Dec 87*

[Text] Lebanon has closed down its embassy in Sudan. This has been done in an attempt to cut back on expenditure, as part of the austerity policy.

## Khaddam Sends Message to Palestinian Leaders

*JN301710 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 29 Dec 87 pp 1, 8*

[Text] Rabat—AL-ITTIHAD—An informed Palestinian source in Rabat told AL-ITTIHAD yesterday that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has sent a message to Palestinian leaders confining the political differences between the two parties to the following points:

—Relations with progressive Jewish forces

—Relations with Egypt

—Security arrangements for the Palestinian camps in Lebanon

In comments to AL-ITTIHAD, the source said this was the first time that Khaddam had sent a message to the Palestinian leadership. At the same time, the source revealed that security meetings have taken place between the Syrians and Palestinians. However, the source declined to give the dates or venues of the two meetings.

The source indicated that the Palestinian-Syrian dialogue will resume on a political level at the beginning of 1988.

On another issue, the source explained that the Syrian Government has released a new group of Palestinian detainees in Damascus. The source pointed out that Syria allowed the PLO to remit the funds allocated for the salaries of a large number of its cadres in Syria and to cash those funds immediately.

The source said that Muhammad Dawud 'Awdah, also known as Abu Dawud, visited Damascus several times recently to discuss relations between the PLO and Syria.

## Soviet Envoy Delivers Note on Superpower Summit

*JN301357 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department and candidate member of the Central Committee, at 1030 today. The meeting was also attended by the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, Aleksandr Dzasokhov.

Brutents handed Khaddam a message from CPSU General Secretary Mikail Gorbachev for President al-Asad. The note deals with the Washington summit between Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the U.S.-Soviet talks.

The discussion during the meeting covered international issues, the situation in the Middle East, developments in the Gulf, and bilateral relations.

## Bulgarian Trade Minister Pays Official Visit

### Arrives 25 Dec

*JN252013 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Dec 87*

[Text] Bulgarian Trade Minister Khristo Khristov arrived in Damascus this evening at the head of an official delegation for a visit to Syria that will last several days. He will hold talks with ministers and other officials on promoting economic cooperation between the friendly peoples of Syria and Bulgaria.

In an arrival statement to SANA, Khristov said the goal of his trip was to advance economic ties and boost trade in 1988. He noted that joint ventures in various fields would be discussed, with emphasis on agriculture and geological studies. In addition, he explained that the talks would cover the launching of joint Syrian-Bulgarian firms.

The Bulgarian minister praised the growing relations between the two countries and Syria's achievements in overall development. He expressed pleasure with his country's contribution to development projects in Syria, stressing Bulgaria's interest in boosting this collaboration still further.

Khristov noted with satisfaction the existing friendship between the peoples and governments of the two countries, which were fostered and consolidated by President al-Asad's recent trip to Bulgaria.

### Calls on Oil Minister

*JN262013 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Dec 87*

[Text] Damascus, 26 Dec (SANA)—Dr Antonios Habib, the minister of oil and mineral wealth, met this afternoon with Khristo Khristov, the visiting Bulgarian minister of trade.

The talks during their meeting were devoted to the existing cooperation between the two friendly countries, with emphasis on collaboration in the areas of oil and mineral wealth.

### Holds Cooperation Talks

*JN271540 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 27 Dec 87*

[Text] Damascus, 27 Dec (SANA)—Khristo Kristov, the Bulgarian minister of trade responsible for foreign and domestic trade and material resources, is leading a delegation on a visit to Syria. The members of his group continued their talks today with a number of Syrian officials as part of the work of the Joint Syrian-Bulgarian Committee.

The Bulgarian delegation met here today with 'Abd al-Rahman Madani, minister of irrigation; and Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs. The meetings were also attended by a number of officials, technicians, and experts from the two ministries.

The two parties reviewed the progress made on projects implemented with Bulgarian assistance. These include programs for dams in Syria, as well as a number of others covering power plants and irrigation systems.

The guest delegation held another meeting, which was attended on the Syrian side by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs. The participants examined ways to invigorate bilateral trade.

Also today, Dr Nadir Nabulsi, assistant oil minister, met with Kalchev, Bulgarian assistant oil minister [title as received] and member of the visiting delegation. Representatives of the two countries reviewed bilateral relations, with emphasis on the development of certain oil and gas fields.

The Bulgarian delegation began its talks with Syrian officials yesterday as part of the 11th session of the Joint Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation. The conferees reviewed the scope for economic, scientific, and technical collaboration between Syria and Bulgaria. They formed working teams to organize and promote this cooperation.

### Confers With Al-Zu'bi

*JN281307 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Dec 87*

[Text] Damascus—At 0900 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Khristo Khristov, the Bulgarian minister of trade. Khristov is responsible for domestic and foreign trade and material resources. The meeting was also attended by Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, the ministers of economy, planning, and irrigation, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus.

The participants in the meeting reviewed the cooperation between the two friendly countries, as well as the results of the joint committees' work on executive programs for a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement.

### Signs Agreements, Departs

*JN290811 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Dec 87*

[Text] Syria and Bulgaria signed three documents on economic, development, and trade cooperation at the Syrian Central Bank today.

The first document includes an agreement on economic cooperation to finance a number of development projects dealing with different aspects of agriculture, industry, irrigation, transportation, and electricity.

The second document includes a protocol on cooperation in carrying out several development projects, establishing agricultural and industrial complexes, and importing raw materials required by Syrian factories. These imports will be paid for by goods from the plants.

The two documents were signed for Syria by Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, and for Bulgaria by Khristo Khristov, minister of trade for guiding domestic and foreign trade and material resources.

The third document contains a protocol on the exchange of products from the two countries in 1988. Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, signed for Syria, while Khristo Khristov, minister of trade for guiding domestic and foreign trade and material resources, did so for Bulgaria.

The signing ceremony was also attended by members of the two delegations and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus.

Khristov and his delegation left Damascus today for home. They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by the ministers of economy and planning, the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus, and members of the embassy staff.

### Al-Zu'bi Meets Bulgarian Education Minister

*JN241336 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Dec 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Ilcho Dimitrov, the Bulgarian minister of national education, at 1000 today. The meeting was also attended by Higher Education Minister Dr Mamal Sharaf and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus.

Their talks dealt with relations of friendship and cooperation and ways to reinforce and develop them in the interest of the two friendly countries and peoples.

## Afghanistan

### First Convoy Arrives in Khowst from Gardeyz

*LD301550 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] A convoy of food and consumer goods arrived in Khowst at 1500 today after the opening of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway.

A BAKHTAR reporter in Gardeyz reports that the first peace convoy, consisting of 1,200 tons of food and consumer goods, was sent to the Khowst district in 155 vehicles. Thousands of residents of the town of Khowst welcomed this convoy, in the presence of Sulayman La'eq, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of tribal and border affairs, and Nabi 'Azimi, first deputy minister of defense and administrator of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway clearing operation.

BAKHTAR reports that happiness created a new atmosphere in Khowst when the people welcomed soldiers and officers of the Armed Forces by throwing flowers and presenting them with bouquets.

The vehicles in the convoy were decorated with the slogans "we do not want war", "we are the messengers of peace." "We are ready to give humane aid to the people of Khowst." And "Implementing the policy of national reconciliation, fulfilling the decisions of the all-party second conference of the PDPA, and implementing the resolutions of the historic Grand Assembly are our wishes."

The toiling people of Khowst celebrated this great success by performing local dances, thereby welcoming the reopening of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway.

Another report says that this afternoon another convoy of 1,600 tons of food and consumer goods loaded on 150 vehicles left Gardeyz for Khowst. The dispatch of food and consumer goods to Khowst continues by state and private transportation.

### Mujahidin Claim Control of Khowst-Gardeyz Road

*BK310354 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have foiled the Soviet-Kabul troops' continued offensive to open the Khowst-Gardeyz road. They have broken the intensity of the Soviet-Kabul offensive and inflicted heavy casualties on Soviet-Kabul troops. The Soviet news agency TASS has confirmed for the first time that the Soviet troops are also involved in the fighting.

The Soviet-Kabul troops have been attempting to open the Khowst-Gardeyz road to end the siege of Khowst, Nader Shah Kowt, and (Laka Tigga) towns. The reports say that the Soviet-Kabul troops could not clear the road from Nader Shah Kowt to Khowst and a large part of their forces have been stranded at Shiveh since 18 December. The Soviet-Kabul forces consisting of 2 divisions of troops left Kabul with 2000 tanks and armored vehicles and gathered near Gardeyz to lessen mujahidin's pressure on the besieged garrison town of Khowst.

A large number of Soviet-Kabul troops are reported to have set up three bases between Gardeyz and Sataw Kandaw on the Gardeyz-Khowst road on 30 November. They reached up to (Laka Tigga) and set up two observation posts near Sar-e Kowtal and Kandaw. Later, reinforcements comprising 2 brigades of the army and 900 tanks and armored vehicles from Ghazni and Parvan Provinces also joined the Soviet-Kabul troops already present in the area and advanced up to Bagh. Some troops also moved forward from Khowst to establish contact with Nader Shah Kowt, but they had to retreat due to intense firing from the mujahidin.

The Soviet-Kabul forces present at Nader Shah Kowt had launched operations in areas around Davamandi Faqiri last Monday [28 December] and Tuesday to assist the major troops at Shiveh. The mujahidin broke the intensity of these assaults and as a result, the Khowst-Gardeyz road is still under the mujahidin's control.

### BAKHTAR Issues Warning on Risks to Foreigners

*LD301749 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Kabul, 30 Dec (BAKHTAR)—As BIA has repeatedly reported, direct foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan continues.

Recently reports on the disappearance of foreign citizens in the Republic of Afghanistan have appeared in the Western mass media. It is apparent from these reports that the intensifying differences between various extremist groups with different stances, the specific positions of the leaders of the extremists—including Gulbuddin Hikmatyar—toward foreign citizens, and the existence of large amounts of expensive equipment carried by these people constitute the principle danger to the security and life of foreign citizens in Afghanistan.

In this respect, BIA remarks that according to authoritative organs of the Republic of Afghanistan, these people, violating the law of Afghanistan and international norms, enter the territory of Afghanistan from Pakistan secretly in the company of irreconcilable extremist armed groups.

Those who enter Afghanistan under various pretexts do not respect the repeated warnings of the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan about the possible tragic consequences of their actions.

Right now an Italian citizen, Fausto Biloslavo, is in the hands of the security organs of the Republic of Afghanistan. He was captured in Laghman during the crushing

of an irreconcilible extremist group, which was provoking armed clashes with state forces. His criminal dossier of illegal incursions into Afghanistan and his activities with antistate armed groups of the extremists has been completed by the authoritative organs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Moreover the dossier on a French citizen, Alain Guillo, who entered the territory of Afghanistan illegally and was gathering information which damaged state and military interests of the Republic of Afghanistan, is being completed and the trial of this person will take place in the near future.

### Italian Charge Asks To See Arrested Journalist

*LD310110 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 2300 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] It has been learned that the Italian journalist, Fausto Biloslavo, who was missing in eastern Afghanistan on 14 November, has been arrested by the Kabul authorities, and an investigation into his case has begun. The confirmation of Biloslavo's arrest was given today to Italian diplomats and the news was received with relief in Trieste by the journalist's family and colleagues, who were seriously concerned for his fate.

The Italian charge d'affaires in Kabul has asked the Afghan authorities to be allowed to see Fausto Biloslavo to ascertain his state of health and to give him any type of assistance, even of a legal nature.

### General Interviewed on Aid by Soviet Troops

*LD310932 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Kabul, December 30, BAKHTAR—The people of Afghanistan have fully felt that their Soviet brothers have defended them against the aggressors and extremists, says General Zabihullah Ziarmal president of Army political affairs in an interview with a military reporter of BAKHTAR.

The Soviet soldiers, alongside the Afghan officers and soldiers, have gone to the villages and towns of the country and have taken part in the voluntary work of constructional activities, treatment of patients, medical assistance and distribution of aid goods.

Over forty thousand Afghans, he continued to say, were given treatment at the hospitals of the military contingent of the Soviet Union. Over 200 tons of kerosene and diesel were distributed free of charge and commodity assistance was distributed to the deserving people at a worth of over six million roubles by the limited contingent of the Soviet Union. The commodity aid was mainly distributed to the people in the provinces of Parvan, Baghlan, Konduz, Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat and Qandahar.

They have also helped in the repair of roads, schools, hospitals and other public utilities, the salient examples of which are the construction of dams in Jabal os Saraj and 'Ali Kheyl the building of friendship school, repairing of roads in Charikar.

General Zabihullah Ziarmal added that this type of assistance under the conditions when Afghanistan burns in the flames of the undeclared war of reaction and imperialism holds a vital importance. Assistance to the Afghan Army—which fight for the cessation of war, termination of foreign intervention and the attainment of peace—by the Soviet soldiers is unforgettable. The Armed Forces not only have enjoyed the military assistance of the Soviet Union in respect of military equipment but also in receiving vocational knowledge.

In view of the material and moral assistance of the Soviet Union, the Armed Forces of Afghanistan has become a more powerful one, says General Ziarmal. The great significance of such aid was well understood by every patriotic Afghan when the territorial integrity, independence, and national sovereignty of the country were jeopardized, he concluded.

### BAKHTAR Observer Praises Soviet Assistance

*LD310931 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Kabul, December 30, BAKHTAR—A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

Remarkable increase in the volume of all-sided assistance of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan in the key spheres of education, training of professional cadres, rehabilitation of schools, provision of equipment, health, improvement of public services and attraction of the economic aids of the Soviet republics to the different provinces of Afghanistan, play their basic and vital roles in tackling socio-economic problems of our people.

Recently, the residents of Kabul were witnessing an important event, that is, inauguration of the friendship school where over 1,300 rpt 1,300 children will be enrolled. This school which is equipped with up-to-date educational equipment, madical facilities, laboratories, educational shops, sports facilities, cinema and other possibilities, is matchless in the Republic of Afghanistan.

These equipment and facilities have been provided through the gratis aids of the Soviet Union.

These days it rarely occurs that fresh news of the free and all-sided assistance of the Soviet republics to the capital and provinces of the country are not published by the Afghan mass media.

Remarkable expansion of direct cooperations between the republics and regions of the Soviet Union to different provinces of Afghanistan, represents the ever further deepening of the traditional goodneighbourly ties and

the highly Afghan-Soviet mutual cooperation. Without doubt, these assistance are considered of vital importance for the residents of the Afghan provinces.

During recent days, the Kazakh and the Tadzhik Soviet Socialist Republics assisted, on gratis basis, equipment and electric appliances with 500,000 rpt 500,000 and 600,000 rpt 600,000 roubles to the Qandahar and Ghowri zones respectively.

The Nimruz and Parvan provinces ahave been benefitted from the all-sided assistance of Kharkov and Kherson Provinces of the Ukriane Soviet Socialist Republic in the fields of electricity, health and completion of Kamal Khan and Lashkari dams.

Under the conditions of the national reconciliation policy, increase in the volume of internationalistic assistance of the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan, play important part for the solution of those socio-economic problems emanated from the undeclared war of imperialism against our country.

The people of Afghanistan is grateful from these disinterested internationalistic assistance rendered to them by the Soviet Union.

### Armed Group Accepts Reconciliation Policy

*LD302119 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] A 250-man armed group led by Zakim Khan which had carried out armed activities in Helmand Province gave a positive reply to the resolutions and decisions of the Grand Assembly of peace and came over to the side of national reconciliation yesterday.

The BIA military correspondent reported that this group was welcomed by [words indistinct].

The report adds that this group brought with them 4 rocket launchers, 1 mortar, 1 heavy machinegun, 8 various light weapons, and large amounts of ammunition which they handed over to the province's security forces.

## Briefs

### USSR Petroleum Contract

Kabul, December 23, BAKHTAR—A contract on delivery of petroleum products from the Soviet Union to the Republic of Afghanistan for the year 1988 was concluded here on Tuesday. Based on the contract the delivery of the Petroleum products is due to start on January 1, 1988. The imported petroleum products will be distributed as usual through reservoirs and pump stations in the capital and provinces. Moreover, a contract on delivery of tar and other technical lubricants for the year 1988 was also signed here on Tuesday, the delivery of which will start at the beginning of 1988. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 24 Dec 87 LD]

### USSR Dam Construction

A cooperation protocol for carrying out the construction work of a dam on Tagab-e Monjan was concluded today in Kabul between the Afghan and Soviet Union authorities. According to this contract, eight experts of the friendly country of the Soviet Union will be dispatched to the project area. They will cooperate in various aspects of Tagab-e Monjan project. The contract was concluded by Muhammad Shah Sorkhabi, minister of irrigation and water resources, and A. Petrov economic counsellor of the USSR Embassy in Kabul. [Excerpt] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Dec 87 LD]

### Kirghiz SSR Aid Protocol

Kabul, December 29, BAKHTAR—At a value of 300,000 roubles, electric equipment and appliances will be provided through the direct cooperations of the Soviet republics to the Lowgar and Paktia Provinces of the Republic of Afghanistan. A protocol to this effect was signed between the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ministry of Electric Energy of the Republic of Afghanistan. The equipment and appliances are due to be delivered to the Afghan side in the course of one year. The Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic will train technical personnel of the Republic of Afghanistan in that republic as well. [Excerpt] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 30 Dec 87 LD]

## Bangladesh

### Ershad To Visit Iraq in Early January

*BK301605 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Excerpt] President Ershad is to pay a state visit to Iraq early next month at the invitation of President Saddam Husayn. The visit will take place at the end of President Ershad's 4-day state visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

### No Curfew From 31 Dec Midnight to 1 Jan Morning

*BK310724 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] An official announcement in Dhaka today said there will be no curfew in the capital and other cities from 0000 midnight [1800 GMT] tonight [31 December] till tomorrow morning.

### Ministers Speak Against Terrorism, Violence

*BK310506 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] At a party workers meeting in Sylhet yesterday, the foreign minister, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, said the present government has introduced a development-oriented politics in place of destruction, indiscipline,

and terrorism. He said the only way to change the government is to secure the mandate of the people through constitutional means.

Education Minister, Mahbubur Rahman, says democratic dispensation and constitutional functions cannot be surrendered to intimidation, coercion, violence, and lawlessness. At a meeting at Charkhel in Noakhali, he said such unconstitutional activities would hamper peace and stability.

### Opposition Again Demands Government Resign

*BK310441 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] The Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, held a meeting yesterday with the presidents and secretaries of her party's organizing districts in Dhaka. The meeting discussed the prevailing political situation in the country and the course of the opposition movement. Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Hasina, who is also the leader of the eight-party alliance, said the present political problem can be solved only through the resignation of the government.

The BNP-Shah Aziz vice chairman and former minister, Abdul Azim, has put forward a six-point demand for resolving current political deadlock. The six-point demand includes the lifting of emergency, release of all detenues [detainees], dissolution of the Cabinet, and formation of an advisory council.

The five-party alliance has reiterated its demand for handing over power to a nonparty person for holding free and fair polls to Parliament. The National Republican Party chief, Dr Mohammad Zahir Khan, told a workers rally at Mirpur in the capital that election is the only way to continue the democratic process. The other parties which have issued statements include Jatiya Janata Party, Bangladesh Khilafat Andolan, Jana Shakti Party, the Communist Party of Bangladesh, and the Khet Majoor Samiti.

### Political Parties Support Elections

*BK301640 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Seventy political parties met in Dhaka today to review the latest political situation in the country. The meeting was convened by JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal] leader, A.S.M. Abdur Rab. In a joint statement, leaders of the political parties said it is a constitutional binding to form a national parliament within the stipulated period.

As Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party and their alliances are opposing the election, other political parties will have to come forward for smooth holding of the election. It is a historical challenge and all big and small parties must perform their national duties by taking part in the election.

Bangladesh Upazila [subdistrict] Chairman Parishad [council] has called upon all political parties to resolve the present political impasse by holding a free election in the country. It also urged all concerned to forget their differences and unite in the greater interest of the country. Jatiya Sramik Party in a statement said the opposition programs have brought the national economy on the verge of destruction. It called upon the people to build up resistance against their programs.

The 23-party alliance at a meeting in Dhaka today expressed the hope that the opposition parties will ultimately take part in the election as they have realized that the people are not responding to their programs. The alliance said the opposition parties must realize that there is no alternative to election to resolve the present impasse.

Bangladesh Muslim League-Kazi Kader group held a discussion meeting today to mark the founding anniversary of the organization. In a speech on the occasion, the party leader said steps will have to be taken to hold election within 90 days, otherwise there will be no way for ruling the country constitutionally.

The Bangladesh Muslim League-Qamruzzaman group also held a discussion meeting in Dhaka to mark the founding anniversayy of the party.

The United People's Party has called for holding free and fair election under the supervision of a caretaker government. It also called for withdrawal of emergency and the restoration of open political activities.

Bangladesh Gana Azadi League has demanded the formation of a people's representative government through an impartial election. It also urged the government to release all political detenues [detainees] and withdraw restrictions on the press.

## India

### 40 GNLF Activists Arrested in 30 Dec Raid

*BK301635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] In West Bengal, police conducted raids on GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] hideouts in the Singamari area of Darjeeling subdivision this afternoon. The additional superintendent of police, Darjeeling, told our Kurseong correspondent that 40 GNLF activists were arrested during the raid. He said 70 GNLF activists have so far been arrested under the antiterrorist act in the hill areas of Darjeeling. Police also conducted raids today in the area between Spring Side and Makaibari tea estate under Kurseong subdivision. Some arms and ammunition were recovered. Three persons have been detained for questioning.

### 'Terrorists' Gun Down 4 in Punjab 30 Dec

*BK310420 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0240 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] In Punjab, four persons were killed and a woman seriously injured by terrorists in village Deri under Kahwan police station in Gurdaspur District last night. According to an official spokesman, about five to six armed terrorists came to the village at around 2000 [1430 GMT] and opened indiscriminate fire. The police and paramilitary forces immediately rushed to the spot and started a massive combing operation in the area to apprehend the culprits.

### Government Says 'No Compromise With Violence'

*BK301609 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] The Center has categorically stated that there can be no compromise with violence or appeasement of terrorism. In a statement in New Delhi this evening, the government strongly condemned the recent abduction of a group of IAS [Indian Administrative Service] and revenue officials by Naxalites in Andhra Pradesh. It is totally unacceptable that government officials should become victims of this kind of terror. Whatever force is required will be used to meet terrorism effectively.

The statement pointed out that succumbing to the threat of terrorism will only encourage it. The government also warned all terrorist and extremist elements in the country that such act will invite the strongest countermeasure.

### Editorial Sees Pro-Pakistan Moves in Congress

*BK301425 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English*
*16 Dec 87 p 6*

[Editorial: "An Abortive Coup"]

[Text] A crisis in Indo-U.S. relations has mercifully been averted thanks to the rejection by the U.S. Senate of a recommendation by its Appropriations Committee making transfer of high-tech to India and even World Bank loans to it conditional on New Delhi reaching an understanding with Islamabad on the nuclear issue or opening Indian nuclear installations to international inspection.

The Appropriations Committee's move was nothing less than a well-planned attempt at an anti-Indian legislative coup. That Pakistan was hard at work to ensure passage of the administration's $4.02 billion aid package to it without having to give up its nuclear weapons programme was well known. But it does not seem that New Delhi was aware that the Pakistanis were conspiring even to scuttle a substantial improvement in Indo-U.S. economic ties. The plot came to light only after the Pakistanis managed to turn members of the Appropriations Committee virtually into their tools.

Apparently the honourable Senators were made to forget that the issue before the U.S. administration was how to prevent Pakistan from violating American laws in pursuit of its nuclear weapons programme. Instead, they seem to have been talked into accepting that India—which had deliberately refrained from embarking on the manufacture of nuclear weapons for 13 years after its first and only explosion of a nuclear device—was the villain of the piece and should, therefore, be penalised.

It did not redound to their credit that the Senators allowed themselves to be a privy to such a sordid game of distorting truth. It transpires that the chief conman who played havoc with the Senators' critical faculties was none other than Mr Denis Neill, a former official in the U.S. Agency for International Development's Congressional liaison office. Pakistan had engaged his lobbying firm for this work.

What eventually saved the day for India was the fact that the Congressmen, Messrs John Glenn, Claiborne Pell, Daniel Moynihan and Stephen Solarz worked hard to prevent the entire Senate from being taken for a ride by Pakistan and its agents. The promptness and vigour with which New Delhi conveyed its concern over the Appropriations Committee's mischief to Washington also helped.

It should be borne in mind, however, that the White House itself was surprised by what the Committee did. Mr Reagan had clearly decided that from the American strategic point of view the grant of large-scale military and economic aid to Pakistan was more important than the pursuit of the non-proliferation objective. But he apparently does not want that this imperative of U.S. policy should be given a wrong twist by alienating India. While such regard for Indian sensitivity is welcome, New Delhi cannot afford to lose sight of the potential danger posed by the well-entrenched pro-Pakistani lobby—which means a morbidly anti-India lobby—in Washington.

### Exports Reach Record High in Fiscal Year

*BK310748 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0730 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] India's exports reached a record high during the current financial year. It is likely to exceed its target of 13,800 crore rupees despite the unprecedented drought conditions and adverse international factors. Exports during first 7 months of the year stood at 8,707 crore rupees as against 6,845 crores during the corresponding period last year. Although imports reached 12,191 crore rupees, the trade deficit declined to 3,483 crore rupees during the last 7 months as against 4,078 crore rupees last year. To boost exports, a series of policy initiatives, like liberalization of import of machinery, were undertaken by the government.

## Iran

### Coastal Artillery Fire Sinks 2 Iraqi Ships

*LD311052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] The General Staff of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has announced: Last night, two vessels of the Iraqi Zionist regime, taking advantage of darkness, left their hideout via Khawr 'Abdallah. They became targets of the coastal artillery fire of the navy of mighty IRGC fighters and sank to the bottom of Khawr 'Abdallah waters. This intense fire, in addition to destroying the two vessels, killed the Iraqi crews.

### FRG Container Ship Detained in Bandar-e 'Abbas

*NC301123 Paris AFP in English 1113 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Manama, Dec 30 (AFP)—Iran was holding the West German container ship Norasia Pearl in the southern Gulf port of Bandar-e 'Abbas on Wednesday, two days after intercepting it on suspicion of carrying cargo to Iraq, West German shipping sources said. The 31,205-ton ship, crewed by some 15 West German seamen, was intercepted Monday by a small Iranian warship just north of the Strait of Hormuz.

The container ship, which was bound for the United Arab Emirates port of Jabal 'Ali, had left from Rotterdam and stopped at five other European ports before heading for the Gulf, the sources said. They added that a Royal Navy warship was escorting a convoy of tankers through the zone as the West German vessel was intercepted, but the British ship did not intervene.

Iran announced Tuesday that its navy had intercepted a ship "suspected of carrying merchandise to Iraq" Monday in the Strait of Hormuz and escorted it to an Iranian port. The Iranian communique did not provide the name or nationality of the ship.

Several West German ships have been intercepted in the past few years by the Iranian Navy, which daily checks ships entering the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz.

In November 1986 the Norasia Gabrielle, also owned by the West German firm Norasia Shipping, was held for a week in an Iranian port.

The shipping sources said the Norasia Pearl's crew members, led by Captain Ulf Mahnke, were being treated well. "The sailors of the Norasia Gabrielle were treated extremely well last year and generally everything goes very well for the crew," they said.

### NBC Interview With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

*LD301843 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani says disputes between U.S. political parties are so strong that it will not allow the White House leaders to do anything in the interests of the American people or other people in the world.

In an interview with NBC here, published by the public relations department of the Majlis today, the speaker said the U.S. has taken a hostile attitude against Iran since the victory of the Islamic Revolution (1979) and is still pursuing its acts of mischiefs, instead of apologizing to Iran for its support for the deposed shah's regime.

Desperation is the best term for the policy adopted by the U.S. against Iran over the past few years, the speaker said, adding that this is even contrary to the avowed principles of the Americans.

In response to a question about a solution to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf, Hashemi-Rafsanjani remarked that problems have increased since the U.S. despatched its naval fleets to the region, noting that attacks on ships have sharply increased since the U.S. fleets entered the Persian Gulf.

If they (big powers) want security and safe shipping in the Persian Gulf, Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti rulers must stop assisting the Baghdad regime, the speaker said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who doubles as the spokesman for the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) later commented on the "only inclusive solution" to the Iraqi-imposed war, saying "our stand is clear. The identification of the aggressor and its punishment will pave the way to end the war."

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani responding to a question on the likelihood of an arms embargo on Iran, dismissed it as something impractical. Nobody can stop the flow of arms into Iran, he added. In addition, noted Hashemi-Rafsanjani, there is no power able to prevent the Baghdad regime from receiving weapons. Such a measure should have long been taken, if there were any good intentions, he added.

Iran enjoys high capability to produce its needed weapons and most of its required arms are manufactured domestically, said the SDC spokesman.

Elsehwere in his interview, the Majlis speaker said the Islamic Republic is willing to recommend the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon but pointed that none of the Western countries are ready to make the same recommendation concerning the release of Iranian hostages held by the Phalangists.

The current state of affairs may lead to the release of hostages but none of the American parties seems to be willing to give a chance to its rival to render such a service to the American people, said Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In France, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, the situation is the same. The spirit of deception makes everything to go wrong, he said.

The U.S., in order to earn a few more dollars and to provide Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries with an ill-gotten fund, ruined everything, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said. The problem is that the Americans think of their own interests and not anything else, he added.

On Iranian hostages held by Lebanese Phalangists, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran had requested the Archbishop of Canterbury to secure their release because of his influence on the Phalangists, in return for Iran's mediation with Lebanese Muslims to release a British cleric. But, he added, the British refused to do so.

On the possibility of resumption of diplomatic relations between Tehran and Washington, the speaker said that as long as the U.S. maintains its hostile attitude against the Islamic Republic, Iran's policy will naturally be hostile.

The Majlis speaker reminded that the Americans have always treated the Islamic Republic in a hostile manner since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. But, he noted, Iran has no enmity with the American people, nor does it put the Reagan administrations's mischiefs in the account of American people.

In response to a question concerning the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni's revised will as well as his future successor, the speaker replied that nobody knows anything about the contents of the will except the imam himself. The speaker noted that as announced before, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri is to be the imam's successor, noting that both the Iranian people and the assembly of experts have approved of this.

It is interesting to note that the NBC reporter refused to answer a question raised by the Majlis speaker about the initiator of the Iraq-Iran war.

### Tehran Assails GCC Leaders on Palestine Issue

*LD301551 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1107 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] The leaders of six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ended their session having failed to give top priority to the Palestinian issue. They asked for new measures to enforce Security Council Resolution No 598. The leaders of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain, after their 3-day session in Riyadh, asked the Security Council to take measures necessary to ensure the enforcement of this resolution. In their final statement, they expressed their regret over Iran's position and praised Iraq's positive stance which, in their view, accepts Resolution No 598. The statement also condemns what it calls Iran's part in the bloody incidents in Mecca and in launching several missiles aimed at Kuwait.

Despite all this, according to international observers, the tone of the final statement issued by the GCC session was quite moderate. Considering Iran's powerful, important, and strategic position in the region, they refrained from calling for harsher steps against Iran. In fact, the leaders of the six members of the Council only approved the proceedings of the summit session of the reactionary Arab leaders in Jordan.

However, reliable sources believe that because general war conditions in recent years have not favored the Iraqi regime and because, as far as arms and personnel are concerned, Iran is superior, the leaders of the GCC countries realize they will have to cooperate economically and politically with Iran after the war and thus, despite some harshly worded slogans, are incapable of taking any important steps. At the same time, Iran is the biggest and most powerful country in the region and obviously any joint action in the Persian Gulf would be useless without Iran's participation. Meanwhile, Iraq's destructive position—its efforts to expand the imposed war and attacks on oil tankers—and the Islamic Republic's clear response that there will be security in the Persian Gulf for all or for none have brought a situation where the invitation extended by some GCC members to the NATO forces to interfere in the Persian Gulf has only served to make the situation more confused.

The unforgivable decision made by both the GCC session in Riyadh and the Arab leaders' summit conference in Amman was the failure to give priority to the Palestinian issue. Of course, the Riyadh summit praised the Palestinian uprising and promised to help the movement in any way possible. However, these recommendations are made at a time when the six GCC members have resorted to the permanant members of the UN Security Council. The GCC praised the Palestinian uprising because it makes the need to hold negotiations within the framework of an international conference more urgent. Such an interpretation of the Palestinian uprising is nothing but deviationist and reactionary, a solution firmly rejected by the oppressed people of occupied Palestine in their present uprising.

A general review of the final statement makes it clear that the only step the GCC can take is the oil loan treaty, that is, if one of the Council members is unable to export oil for some reason, other members can go to its aid and export oil for it, that is, provide a loan.

The other agreement involves internal security and shows that the Council members are facing many internal difficulties, primarily the growth in the people's

Islamic inclination and their craving for Islam. With regard to military cooperation, although many contracts about forming a joint force or carrying out "Island Shield" [Separ-e Jazireh] exercises have been signed, these have resulted in only one exercise. Among the major problems facing the GCC here are the multiplicity of brands of weapons, the formation of different armies, and lack of personnel. It does not seem likely that a short-term solution will be found for these problems.

In addition, so far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, any treaty in the region which does not take into account the interests of the biggest and most powerful country in the region will not be all-embracing or binding. Any real cooperation between the countries of the region will be the most suitable alternative to pleas for help to superpowers and other foreign forces whose presence in the region only serves to increase the tension and the danger of expanding the war.

**Velayati Cables Cuban Counterpart**
*LD311024 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—On the anniversary of Cuban revolution, January 1, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati cabled a message of congratulation to his Cuban counterpart Isidoro Malmierca Thursday.

Velayati congratulated the Cuban nation on the anniversary of their anti-imperialist revolution. He emphasized the need for further expansion of Tehran-Havana cooperation in international scenes.

**Velayati Congratulates Sudan on Anniversary**
*LD311020 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a message to his Sudanese counterpart, Ma'mun Sanadah Thursday congratulated him and the Sudanese people on 31st anniversary of Sudan's independence, Jan. 1.

Velayati called for further strengthening of relations between the two Muslim countries and hopes that effective steps will be taken to this end. He also expressed hope that both countries strive for materialisation of sublime goals of Islam.

**Commentary Says No Negotiations With Iraq**
*LD301359 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Unattributed commentary from the "Islamic Revolution Guards Corps" program]

[Text] The 10-point statement issued by the Supreme War Support Council has received a glorious and unprecedented welcome from our people. Their response reflects a willingness to continue their sacred defense until the Ba'thist aggressors are well and truly crushed and final victory is achieved. The Council statement has also intimidated and frightened Saddam's supporters, led by the world-devouring United States. In the face of the Muslim Iranian nation's iron determination to continue the war until final military victory, the United States, as the Iraqi regime's principal backer, has brought the United Nations into the matter. By proposing a political solution and the use of diplomatic means to end the conflict, America intends to defeat the enthusiasm of our nation.

Obviously, our nation is no stranger to this conspiracy, this trick by the oppressors. Our nation has seen it many times during the imposed war. Whenever our nation readied itself to deal the final blows and mobilized all its resources to end the war, it has come up against the rotten, old weapon of ending the conflict through political means. Such methods have always been a waste of time and interfere with striking at the enemy. However, our nation is aware and alert. It will never be fooled by the peace-seeking chatter of warmongering policymakers in Washington or their Ba'thist mercenaries. Clearly, as has already been established, economic sanctions, arms embargoes, and even the threat of military intervention will not draw us into peace talks with the war criminals ruling Islamic Iraq.

The arrogant forces of East and West should realize that a naval blockade of Iran will not help them either. If this threat is carried out, Iran will prevent all other interested countries in the region from using the Persian Gulf and the strategic and vital Strait of Hormuz.

**Air Force Commander Briefs Khamene'i**
*LD310921 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i received Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mansur Sattari here Wednesday.

During the meeting General Sattari briefed the president on the high spirit of Iranian pilots, their preparedness for any operations against the Ba'thist aggressor and Iran's enemies in the Persian Gulf, and the improvements made in the air force towards attainting self-sufficiency.

The president then gave necessary instructions on the matters discussed at the meeting.

**Rafiqdust Explains Phased Deployment Plans**
*LD311155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] The minister of Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps [IRGC] announced today: The plan for scheduled dispatch of troops is designed to send forces to the front whenever there is a need for a massive number of troops. Our correspondent interviewed Mr Rafiqdust in Bandar-e 'Abbas on this subject.

The IRGC minister, who has gone to Bandar-e 'Abbas to review the defense-military situation of the Persian Gulf region, announced: The first fighter plane constructed by the Islamic Republic Iran will be used in operational flights in the very near future. He added: The self-sufficiency industries of the IRGC, in order to provide all the weapons for the armed forces and the IRGC, are pursuing effective programs and so far have achieved remarkable self-sufficiency in manufacturing military equipment. Next year, the IRGC will start the full phase of self-sufficiency in the artillery sector.

The IRGC minister paid tribute to our homeland's ever-present-on-the-scene people for their extensive participation in the plan for scheduled dispatch to the front and said: The 10-day scheduled dispatch, which started today, is followed so that eligible persons can be sent to the front in stages in order to deliver repeated and relentless blows on the Zionist enemy until the collapse of the aggressive, Saddamist mercenaries.

He went on: The scheduled dispatch plan attempts to ensure that forces will be dispatched to the front whenever there is a need for a massive number of troops.

**Tehran on Phased Dispatch of 120,000 Volunteers**
*LD242122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*1030 GMT 24 Dec 87*

[Text] The start of the implementation of the plan for phased dispatches of 120,000 members of the popular forces from Markazi Province is the topic of another of this hour's news reports to which I turn your attention:

In connection with the implementation of the Supreme War Support Council's directive, the plan for the phased dispatch of 50 divisions of the people's volunteer forces from Markazi Province has been put into action. The commander of the IRGC of Markazi Province announced this fact in an interview with a reporter from the Central News Unit in Arak. The commander added: Following the declaration of preparedness of 600 battalions made up of the courageous forces of this province in the great Prophet Muhammad maneuver, the process has begun for the phased dispatch, in 14 consecutive phases, of 120,000 members of the people's forces in two stages—military training and dispatches. He noted the fact that all the bases and the ranks of resistance in towns and villages of this province have begun to register the volunteer forces in order to fill their quota and said: The plan gives guidelines for the following: the dispatch of 20 percent of government employees; 6 months of active service at the fronts for students; and the dispatch of clergymen with the coordination of the Islamic Publicity Organization of Markazi Province.

The commander of Markazi Province's IRGC mentioned the fact that, since the start of the current year [21 March 1987], 30 fighting and specialist battalions of the volunteer forces of this region have been sent to the battlefields. He said: According to the program drawn up, by the end of this year [20 March 1988], 40 more battalions will be sent to the fronts from this province. To this end, the second stage of the 14 phase plan for the dispatch of volunteer forces will take place in late December of the current year.

**IRGC Spokesman Interviewed on War Tactics**
*LD301514 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
*0740 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Interview with IRGC spokesman 'Ali Reza Afshar by unidentified correspondent on the "Islamic Revolution Guards Corps" program; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dear listeners, we are in the presence of IRGC spokesman Brother 'Ali Reza Afshar. Would you please tell us, in view of the present circumstances, what changes have been made in the Islamic Republic of Iran's political and military tactics for achieving final victory?

[Afshar] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to thank you and other brothers in the mass media who are working hard to serve the war. In answer to your question, I would like to say that, as you mentioned, changes regarding the war are tactical changes. The strategy of our war is the same as our nation's slogan: "War, war, until victory." As to tactical changes, they might change depending on the time, our situation, and that of the enemy. At present, the only important tactical change in the war is long-term war planning and the repeated and regular operations against the war machine of the Aflaqi Ba'thist regime.

In the past, in view of the fact that the Islamic Republic expected the world and international gatherings to understand the superior position of the Islamic Republic in its victorious operations, to agree to restore the rights of the Islamic Republic, and to accept the conditions of the Islamic Republic, we planned our moves accordingly. Of course, from the beginning we did not pin any hopes on these international gatherings. However, it was necessary to prove this point to the world in order to justify the subsequent heavier blows which would ultimately mean more bloodshed, so that the people of the world would know that we have repeatedly provided the world and international assemblies with the opportunity to restore to us our rights, rights due us according to all human logic. However, we saw later that even countries that individually declared the Aflaqi Ba'thist regime of Iraq started the war were not prepared to include as an addendum to Security Council Resolution No 598 the fact that Iraq started the war.

This demonstrates that world arrogance is not prepared to restore any rights at all to our nation. For this reason, along with the general direction of our fight against infidelity and our defense of the rights of Islam, we should continue our efforts. God willing, within the framework of the new situation and by continuing plans

for our operations, in addition to those plans we have drawn up according to the 10-point statement of the Supreme War Support Council, this new situation will be dealt with in the best possible way.

[Correspondent] The United States and its allies have been making efforts to impose an arms embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran. What effects would such an embargo have on a future victory in the war?

[Afshar] One point which will obviously have an effect, but not a determining one in our opinion, is the lengthening of the war. This is a reality. We will take the necessary measures to meet our arms needs. However, a more important point worthy of consideration is the fact that our country will be pushed toward self-sufficiency and our creative and innovative brains and the strong hands of our people will work harder to make us independent of foreign sources. The war we are fighting now does not rely on modern weapons and on the most up-to-date military advances made in the world.

Iraq, on the other hand, depends on such weapons and is forced to make good all the damage it sustains. In view of the tactics and methods we have adopted in the war, we need the kind of weapons that we are capable of producing ourselves. All we have to do is to work a little harder to become more mobilized in technical and industrial fields. Self-sufficiency will then be complete.

As has been the case up to now, any conspiracy by world arrogance since the beginning of the revolution has turned into a lever for us, giving us strength to conquer a new front against world arrogance and to make greater strides in achieving our Islamic goals. This is part of our general principle and we are sure that both economically and politically we will make more progress in order to confront such conspiracy.

## Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

### Communique No 3066

*LD301652 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—Seven Iranian civilians were martyred and several others wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed Tazehabad village near Paveh, Bakhtaran Province Tuesday, said the daily military communique here today. Enemy aircraft also violated air space of Chagha Kabud village in the same province.

Communique number 3066 of the joint staff command said Iranian navy Tuesday intercepted and thoroughly searched three cargo ships, but allowed them to proceed since they had no Iraqi-bound shipment.

Iranian combatants shelled Iraqi fortifications, supply routes and motorized columns silencing enemy fire throughout the fronts. Movements and activities of Ba'thist troops were brought to a halt with enemy soldiers sustaining substantial casualties and damage.

In Qasr-e Shirin and Eynkhosh operational regions, Iraqi patrol units, attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions, incurred heavy casualties and were forced to flee.

Iranian patrol units carried out missions in the southern fronts and all units returned to their bases safely after dealing heavy blows on the enemy.

Movement of Iraqi supply columns was subjected to Iran's precise fire in Zurbatiyah, Badrah, region opposite Mehran, Helaleh and Nei-Khazar [name as received] and sustained damage. In Kani-Sheykh, Iraqi engineering activities were brought to a halt.

Iran's Muslim combatants prevented the enemy from establishing new positions in Talaiyeh and Hoseyniyeh operational regions.

In Nahr 'Anbar and Yebis, Iraqi tanks fire were silenced by Iranian fire, which inflicted heavy damage on the enemy.

In the western and southern fronts, Iran's gendarmerie forces killed and wounded some Iraqi forces, destroying 15 watch-posts and gun emplacements, two munitions depots as well as some heavy and light vehicles of enemy troops, concluded the communique.

### Enemy Unit Neutralized in Sanbapa

*LD301721 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] As a result of the awareness of the fighters of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, actions by an enemy unit were neutralized in the central sector. The suicidal action by the Zionist enemy this morning in Sanbapa District, aimed at identifying and infiltrating the positions of the warriors of Islam, was crushed due to the awareness of the defenders of Islam and dozens of Ba'thist army personnel were annihilated. The bodies of 15 of them remain in the area because the enemy was unable to remove them. The remaining operational enemy forces, using smoke screens, fled the area.

### Iraq Reportedly Relocating Turkic Population

*LD301734 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—The sizable Turkic speaking population of northern Iraq, especially that of Kirkuk city has become the latest victim of the Ba'thist regime's terror campaign, disclosed Kurd combatant sources here today.

They revealed that recently the regime ruling Baghdad has started to dislodge the Turkic-speaking Muslims inhabiting Kirkuk, brutally expelling them from Iraq. Ba'thist forces employing all suppressive measures have made these Muslims homeless and forced them to go towards the northern borders, without even giving them a chance to collect their necessities, they added.

Meanwhile, informed sources say the Iraqi regime is replacing its Turkic speaking Iraqis by mercenaries from the Ba'thist stronghold of Tikrit thus changing the ratio of the Turk, Kurd, and Arab population in northern Iraq.

## Pakistan

### Karachi Police Fire Tear Gas at 'Violent Mob'

*BK310321 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi Central District magistrate last night says that two persons were injured in an accident involving a ricksha and a minibus at Paposh Nzgar yesterday [30 December]. One of the injured later succumbed to his injuries in hospital. Then, a crowd of people gathered at the place and set the minibus on fire.

The police reached the spot immediately, but the violent mob indulged in heavy stone throwing and attempted to prevent the fire brigade from putting out the minibus fire. The police then had to use tear gas to disperse the crowd. The drivers of the ricksha and the minibus have been taken into custody, the press note adds.

### Kashmir Minister Reportedly Declares Emergency

*WA311431 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 15 Dec 87 p 1*

[Text] Islamabad, 14 Dec (UNI)— Sardar Hayat, the "prime minister" of Pakistani-occupied Kashmir, today declared a state of emergency. Hayat said that after the car of the country's "president," Sardar Qayum, was fired upon, this unfortunate step had to be taken. The government of Pakistani-occupied Kashmir had previously restricted rallies and demonstrations.

According to Hayat, the army was posted in the country in order to maintain law and order. He charged that the Pakistan People's Party had spread turmoil in the country. A state of emergency had also been implemented in 1985. Those who broke the law at that time were given up to 14 years imprisonment.

## Sri Lanka

### Indian Gunships Sink 5 Tamil Rebel Boats

*BK311135 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Indian gunships have sunk five Tamil rebel boats ferrying arms from the Jaffna Peninsula to the Eastern Province. The Indian External Affairs Ministry said that the helicopter gunship operating from an Indian naval frigate spotted the boats and attacked them before the rebels could dump the arms and explosives in the sea. The spokesman did not give any details of the attacks on the LTTE boats, but the Defense Ministry sources in New Delhi said that the vessels were sunk during the past week in separate sorties. Two of the boats were sunk on Tuesday [29 December]. No details of casualties were available.

The government spokesman said that the airborne attackers [as heard] were aimed at stopping the LTTE from smuggling arms from Jaffna to Trincomalee. He said that the rebels were shifting their arms cache to prevent the Indian soldiers from seizing them.

The Indian Navy deployed five destroyers and frigates in Sri Lankan waters after the two countries signed a peace accord.

### LTTE Fires on Aircraft; Slight Damage Noted

*BK310949 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0924 GMT 31 Dec 87*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 31 (LANKA PUWATH)—Sri Lankan Airforce Avro 748 twin engined turbo propeller aircraft was shot at by LTTE terrorists, as it was landing at the Batticaloa airstrip, 300 kilometres east of Colombo this morning.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH, the Avro on its routine morning flight from Colombo was landing at Batticaloa Airport, about 0800 hours (local time) this morning, when terrorists fired rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) at the aircraft, which was reported slightly damaged.

Security forces had retaliated causing the LTTE terrorists to withdraw.

Official sources said that the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) was patrolling the Kathankudy area in Batticaloa which resulted in the death of two LTTE terrorists and three others on Wednesday and Thursday, following the inhabitants of Kathankudy resisting attempt by the LTTE to extort money. Four persons were also warded at the Ampara hospital.

Meanwhile, a report from Dickwella in the island's Southern Province states that police Constable Seneviratne was shot dead by an unknown gunman while he was on his way to report for duty at the Dickwella police station, from his home at Gandara.

## 9 Killed at Batticaloa 29, 30 Dec

*BK301627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, five persons have been killed at Kathankudy in the eastern Batticaloa District since last night. One member of the LTTE was first kidnapped yesterday by a Muslim group called Jihad and later killed. Four Tamil civilians were killed this morning by the same group. As a retaliation, seven Jihad members were kidnapped today by the LTTE.

Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that Batticaloa observed a complete hartal [strike] today in response to a call given by various voluntary organizations, including the citizens committee, to protest the killings of 25 civilians allegedly by the Sri Lankan policemen last Sunday.

The Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, visited Trincomalee and Batticaloa today on a fact finding mission. He met the local citizens committee and ascertained views on ways to bring back normalcy in the areas.

Meanwhile, eight boats carrying arms by LTTE men to the Eastern Province have been sunk by the helicopters of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in the last few days. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that the LTTE has been trying to smuggle arms in Eastern Province as its organized resistance in Jaffna Peninsula has been completely eliminated. Yesterday, two such boats were located by the helicopters and sunk.

The spokesman said that the LTTE men are trying to incite communal violence by attacking members of minority communities. There are also reports of growing difference among the LTTE leaders as the local population are extending full support to the PKF and helping it in locating arms dumps.

## 6 More Killed 31 Dec

*BK310638 Hong Kong AFP in English 0542 GMT 31 Dec 87*

[Text] Colombo, Dec 31 (AFP)—At least six people have been killed in fresh clashes between suspected Tamil guerrillas and a Moslem fundamentalist group in eastern Sri Lanka, officials said here Thursday.

Heavy fighting was reported from Kathankudy village in the eastern Batticaloa District Wednesday between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Moslem Jihad, an official said.

The fighting began when Moslem youths executed an LTTE fighter who was allegedly extorting money from Moslem businessmen in the area.

"Additional troops have been sent to the area, but there still is a lot of tension in Kathankudy," the official said. He said the dead were identified as four LTTE fighters and two Jihad members. Two Moslems were wounded in a gun battle with LTTE men.

Residents in Batticaloa 300 kilometers (190 miles) east of here said that LTTE gunmen fired rocket-propelled grenades at the town's main military airfield early Thursday but did not hit any aircraft.

"Soon after the attack, we saw a lot of helicopter activity over the area from where the rockets were fired," a resident in Batticaloa said by telephone.

An estimated 30,000 to 35,000 Indian troops have been deployed in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces to enforce a July 29 Indo-Sri Lankan peace plan aimed at ending four years of Tamil separatist violence.

More than 340 Indian troops and 1,200 rebels have died since India launched a major offensive on Octoebr 10 tm disarm the LTTE, Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil militant group, which rejected the peace pact and refused to surrender arms.